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RENT FEARS HIT TOWN'S RETAILERS

FIRMS say they are struggling against steep business rates and greedy landlords, yet a high-profile meeting between traders and council bosses was cancelled last week due to lack of interest.

The Ashford Town Centre Partnership wanted to give traders the chance to meet with council leader Paul Clokie and Judith Armit, head of Ashford's Future, to talk about the town centre, but so few firms responded the event was called off.

Yet many small traders are facing

■ BY ED HILL

financial ruin and say the council should do more.

Margit Rigden, who runs Mari Novelty's Craft Centre in Park Mall, has decided to close her shop next May because of increase rent increases.

She said: "We took out a 10-year lease with the possibility of a break after three years and we have decided to give our landlord notice.

"They wanted to increase the rent by £2,000. This part of the town is dead after three o'clock.

"We could not risk another three

years. Our bank has been very helpful, but we couldn't borrow any more money or we could lose our house."

She blamed empty shops for putting people off coming to the town and said landlords were unsympathetic.

She said: "Stores have closed down, but because they are still paying the rent landlords are not interested in finding new tenants. It would help if they allowed shorter six-month rolling leases. The council should put pressure on landlords to help local businesses.

"We have never had anyone come round and ask us what we think."

Steve Morgan, from the clothing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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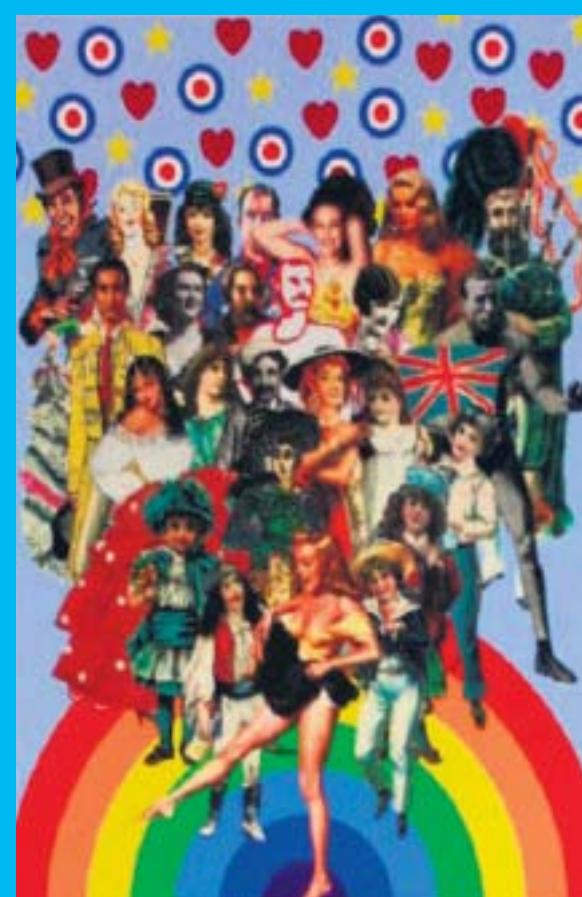
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BLAKE PICTURE TAKEN IN THEFT

This picture by British pop artist Peter Blake, designer of the Beatles's iconic St Pepper album cover, was recently stolen from a home in Charing. It was one of a pair of prints taken in the break-in, along with valuables estimated to be worth £15,000.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 4



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2 Motorists are cutting through a busy car park to avoid traffic. Search 'Chatham' @yourkenttv.co.uk



3 Gurkhas from Foxtrot Company are welcomed home to Folkestone. Search 'Gurkhas' @yourkenttv.co.uk

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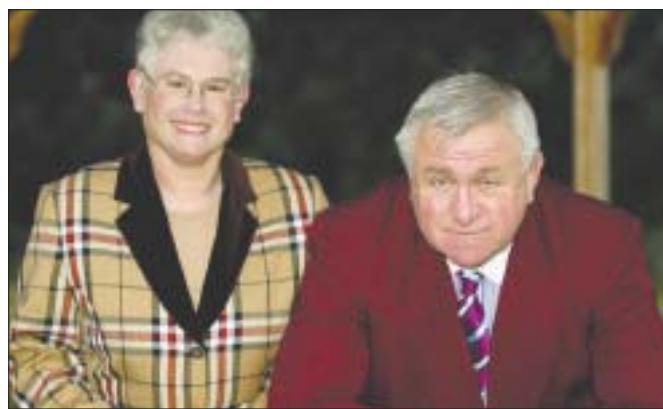
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MONEY MATTERS: Judith and Fergus Wilson own many properties on various Ashford estates

Tycoon challenges paper over claims of mortgage debts

BUY-to-let tycoon Fergus Wilson has denied reports in a national newspaper that he and his wife Judith are massively behind in mortgage repayments.

The couple, whose property empire was at one time said to be worth £180 million, own many homes on various Ashford housing estates as well as in Maidstone.

According to the article in the Daily Mail they owed up to £350,000 to one of their mortgage lenders, Mortgage Express, owned by Bradford and Bingley, after several houses had fallen into negative equity.

The report said the couple had been sent a warning letter from the bank demanding the repayments.

Speaking to Yourashford Mr Wilson said: "I have written to the editor pointing out the errors in the article.

"The picture they paint in Ashford is totally at odds with what we have been hearing from our agents. No action is being taken against us by Mortgage Express whatsoever."

Mr Wilson confirmed he had received letters from Mortgage Express about individual properties, informing him they were coming out of fixed-rate charges, but they had

■ BY ED HILL

the standard government warning on them telling people their homes would be at risk if they do not keep up the mortgage repayments.

The Daily Mail printed pictures purporting to show three two-bedroom houses, owned by the Wilsons and previously worth about £165,000, that were now only worth £160,000.

Mr Wilson says the Ashford housing market is currently very static.

He also challenged the Daily Mail to find a three-bedroom house in good order for £160,000 on the Park Farm estate.

He said: "If they can find one at that price in 14 days I will give them £5,000. If they cannot they can pay £5,000 to a charity of my choice."

In September the couple announced they were leaving the property market and would be selling off their homes. At the time Mr Wilson said because there had been a small increase in house prices, it was the time to start selling the estimated 900 properties. He hoped to be able to find corporate foreign investors to buy up their housing stock.

The 61-year-old said he was finishing the business to concentrate on his passion of horse racing.

Traders urged to back promotions

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

shop KLAN in Bank Street recently joined the town partnership.

He said: "I would have liked to have gone to the meeting to give my views because we need to find ways to help the town centre.

"It is all very well having 99p shops. They have their place, but they are not going to attract shoppers from other towns to Ashford."

Ashford council said it was doing its best to help local businesses and there were signs things were improving.

Andrew Osborne, economic development manager, said: "We are working with the shopping centres to promote current vacant shops."

He also said the council supported the Town Centre Partnership by funding events designed to increase footfall and fought for traders when it came to business rates.

There would be a Christmas festival on November 21 and the council was suspending charges at its car parks on Sundays through December.

Mr Osborne added: "All of these efforts are taken to assist the vitality of the town centre and the council would encourage more traders to get involved with the activities."

yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Dogs race to aid of kids

RACING dogs helped out children at the Caldecott Foundation last week in a race night at Sittingbourne Greyhound Track.

The event, sponsored by local companies raised £6,000.

The Caldecott Foundation cares for children who have suffered cruelty or neglect. To help them, go to www.the-caldecottfoundation.co.uk/stoptherain.

Christmas wrapped up

EARN some extra cash for Christmas by wrapping up shoppers' presents.

The team will be at County Square every Saturday until December 19.

Helpers will dress up in either a Santa or Elf outfit which will be supplied. Proceeds of the gift-wrapping service are donated to Demelza House Children's Hospice.

Call Frances Burt on 01233 634001 or email fran@countysquare.plus.com



For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Kent on Saturday or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at www.kent.gov.uk/highways



'Let's build a theatre we can be proud of'

■ BY ED HILL

CAMPAIGNS for an Ashford theatre have come to nothing in the past, but now a former councillor says Elwick Square, part of the town's shared space scheme, could be the answer.

Keith Brannan, an architect who has lived in the town for 36 years, brought up the subject for the forthcoming State of the Borough Debate.

He said: "I know the demand is there. We are talking about something that the borough can be proud of and inject a cultural arts facility into the town that it does not have at the moment."

Mr Brannan said people would have to be realistic about what could be built, and the theatre centre would need to be geared towards the need of the community.

"I'm not talking about another Marlowe in Canterbury, it would be half that size; a community theatre that could be used by local groups but not rule out some touring productions. It would also need enough space to include a restaurant or bar and meeting rooms which would mean that it was active during the day and not just after 7pm at night."

The site opposite Debenhams is currently owned by the South East England Development Agency.

"I suggested the site because it appears to be an opportunity to actually get it funded. The



POTENTIAL SITE: Elwick Square could be the right place for a community theatre, says architect Keith Brannan

reaction in the past to any proposal like this is that it would prove too expensive, but I think with a bit of lateral thinking we might be able to get some contribution towards it from the developers of Elwick Place."

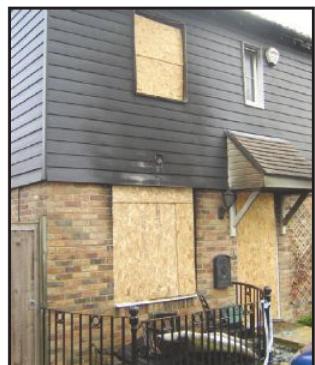
"The site is still publicly owned and controlled, so if the right mechanism was introduced there could be ways of directing the master plan for that area to include a public building like a theatre and arts centre."

Mr Brannan argues that plans to upgrade St Mary's Church for performances will only act

as a stop-gap for what a growing town like Ashford needs.

A spokesman for Ashford council said they would respond to Mr Brannan's idea after the debate.

Mr Brannan said: "The idea would be to site it opposite Debenhams to help create the other side of that square. I think a firm case can be put together for this. It is not just wishful thinking. It needs a new direction and approach from the council and with a new chief executive, this could be the time to do it."



Arson suspected after house fire

POLICE have arrested a man after a suspected arson at a property in Singleton.

A dog is said to have died in the blaze in the property at Stowell Close, one of the new private housing estates in the area.

One person at the scene needed treatment for smoke inhalation.

A 61-year-old man was questioned by police after the fire broke out on Friday afternoon.

A spokesman for Kent Fire and Rescue Service said: "Three engines were called to the fire – two from Ashford and one from Charing.

"We were called to the fire at 9.38pm and left about an hour later. We are treating it as suspicious."

Police hunting knife gang who attacked man in alleyway

OFFICERS are hunting a gang of three who threatened a man with a knife during a robbery.

The attack took place at 11pm on Wednesday, November 11, in an alleyway known as Chicken Alley which connects Lower Queens Road with Heathfield Road in Willesborough.

A 27-year-old man was walking down the alley when the offenders passed him. They turned round, and demanded cash and his MP3 player, which he handed over.

They then demanded his cash card and pin number, and threatened him with a knife before punching him in the face.

The man broke away from the gang and ran to Lower Queens Road. At some point he lost his jacket which was later found on the pavement in Heathfield Road.

The three offenders were all white. The man with the knife is described as 5ft 6in tall, medium build, aged 24 to 25, with short dark blonde hair, and wearing a grey hooded top.

Another was about 15, with a small slight build, wearing a grey hooded top, and a scarf over his face and the third was in his teens, of medium build, with short ginger hair, wearing a grey hooded top.

The man suffered a swollen lip during the robbery, but did not require hospital treatment.

Police would like to speak to anyone with information about the robbery. Call police on 01303 289180 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Two on rape charge

TWO men appeared at Ashford Magistrates' Court on Monday charged with the rape of a 16 year-old girl.

Khalled Ullah, aged 20, from Somerset Road in the town centre, and Ahed Ali, aged 25 from Whitfield Road, South Ashford, were arrested and charged after the attack which occurred sometime between Saturday and Sunday.

Vicious attacker gets three years

A VICIOUS assault has resulted in a three-year prison sentence for a Kingsnorth man.

J o h n Barham, 19, pleaded guilty to common assault and false imprisonment after terrorising a 30-year-old unemployed man from Folkestone at a house in Ashford town centre.



The victim sustained serious injuries in the attack and had to be taken to the William Harvey Hospital for treatment.

Barham was also found guilty of theft at the hearing in Canterbury Crown Court.

The attack took place in January this year.

Gurkha sign to stay at cemetery

THE Gurkha sign at Bybrook Cemetery looks set to remain, despite objections from a small number of protestors.

Council officers recommended that instead of removing the sign, a new map pointing out where various denominations are buried should be erected.

It has also been suggested that a plaque be placed under the Gurkha cemetery sign explaining why that part of the field has been set aside for the former soldiers and their families.

The council executive will be discussing the section set aside for families next week.

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Thieves snatch rare haul in house raid

WORK by Sergeant Pepper artist Peter Blake has been stolen from a house in Charing.

The two prints called I Love You and Summer Days were created by Blake who designed the iconic Beatles's cover.

The theft also included an original painting by Holly Freane of 16 individual dog's heads.

The burglary took place sometime in the evening of October 29 or early the next morning at The Hill in Charing.

Thieves also took a TV, computer and hi-fi equipment, as well as a signed photographs of England captain Martin Johnson lifting the 2003 Rugby World Cup and Jason Robinson scoring a try at the 2003 Rugby World Cup.

They also stole a silver Kirin Tag Heuer watch, which is no longer made.

The total worth of items stolen is estimated at almost £15,000.

DC Nathan Scamp said: "I would like to speak to anyone who saw any suspicious vehicles or persons in the area during the time frame of the incident.

"A considerable amount of property was removed from the house and it would have taken time to load up a vehicle. I am also interested to hear from anyone who has been offered the Tag Heuer watch, the signed photographs, Peter Blake prints, or the Holly Freane painting of the dogs."

Call police on 01303 289180 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Stateside double for local photographer

A NEW exhibition from a local born photographer starts at the Art Room this week.

London to LA, by Andrew Skivington, is the first leg of a double exhibition that continues in Los Angeles next year.

The Ashford show is on until Christmas and Mr Skivington will be showing a collection of more than 300 images.

It includes a wide range of work and focuses on several themes including abstract, people, black and white and architecture.

The Art Room is at 16 North Street, Ashford and opens Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10am-5pm and Sundays 2-4pm.



LIGHT SHOW: One of the photos at the gallery

Fire Service heats up training programme with new centre

■ BY ED HILL

FIREFIGHTERS in training can now get an even more realistic idea of what it is like to fight a house blaze thanks to a new training centre at the town's station.

The Realistic Fire Training unit means crews are exposed to the realities of a genuine blaze.

Area manager for training, Paul Flaherty, said: "It enables firefighters to prepare tactical plans, rehearse them to test if they are fit for purpose, and direct real incidents, improving their skills and learning the symptoms and signs of fire in the process. Firefighters are then able to take this invaluable experience to genuine fires, bringing with them a great deal of expertise and confidence to resolve whatever they may face, swiftly and in the best practice."

The £130,000 centre consists of a tower with a



HOT SPOT: Firefighters tackle the new £130,000 facility

three-storey house attached, simulating a modern home.

Trainers can raise internal temperatures up to 500°C and safety systems have been installed to allow careful management of tests and exercises. Internal sensors linked to a central fire control panel ensuring the conditions for trainees are safe.

The building can be reached from several doors and windows on the ground and first floor, enabling trainers to devise a number of

scenarios that crews can be called to.

Fires can be lit in the rooms with pallets and blow torches and for added realism a hot air system circulates air at high temperature, making conditions extremely difficult and realistic.

Fire service staff have been training at the unit, which took three months to complete, since July.

Kent Fire and Rescue are also working with new firefighting foam which is said to extinguish fire quicker than water, and vans which blow cold air into burning buildings allowing fire crews to work more safely.

Deputy chief executive Ann Millington said: "Kent Fire and Rescue Service is recognised as an innovator of modern and advanced firefighting and we pride ourselves on being one of the best fire and rescue services in the country.

"As part of this, we have invested in vital training facilities that will help us provide the best service to the public and proves our commitment to the health and safety of our staff."

Picture DAVID ROLFE



BLIND MUM'S RAY OF LIGHT

A BABY howler monkey has been born to his blind mother at Port Lympne animal park.

Tolkien, who had her baby earlier this month, has had cataracts from an early age.

Although these were removed vets were unable to find new lenses small enough for the monkey's eyes so she is now completely unable to focus.

But according to keepers this has not stopped her from being a great mum to her new baby.

Simon Jeffery, head of primates at Port Lympne, said: "We are very pleased at the new addition to our howler collection.

"Visitors have a good chance to see the new infant as Tolkien is such a friendly and confident animal that she enjoys coming to the front of the enclosure with her precious offspring."

The new baby is the youngest of the 10 black howler monkeys the zoo keeps.

South American howlers often fall prey to the bush meat trade and suffer because of forest destruction.

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SNAIL PARADISE: The wet grasslands of the Stour Valley are perfect for snails

Protecting snails reveals benefits for eco-system

THE Stour Valley's snails have come under the microscope in a national drive to improve the lot of much-maligned molluscs.

A team of scientists from Cardiff University has been looking at the number of rare snail species found in the Stour Valley, and concluding that preserving them and their habitat has many beneficial effects for larger animals.

Many species of snail are now so threatened they have been protected.

The scientists found conserving three of Britain's rarest snails also had unexpected benefits, such as creating very clean water.

Professor Steve Ormerod, who led the work, said: "It's easy to overlook the world's smallest animals such as insects, snails and other invertebrates, particularly when they live in marshlands and other wet places.

"However, we are realising increasingly that species conservation gives us wider benefits, because it helps us protect other features in the environment.

"This appears to be just as valid when we conserve even humble animals such as snails as it is for bigger and more charismatic ones."

The rare snails, some of them no bigger than a little finger nail, have declined dramatically over recent decades because of

■ BY ED HILL

habitat loss and pollution. They included the Shining Ram's Horn, the Little Whirlpool Ram's Horn and the Large-mouthed Valve Snail. The invertebrates are all listed on the UK Red Data Book of threatened species.

The animals are mainly found in drainage ditches on wet grasslands, the type of habitat particularly found around the River Stour.

The scientists say that by restricting chemical and fertiliser use on land around the protected sites, snail conservation also meant that water quality was protected.

Dr Isabelle Durance, another member of the Cardiff team, said: "For the last decade, there has been a major battle to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. However, we are failing. This evidence about the wider benefits and value of conserving rare invertebrates comes at a critical time to help focus new efforts."

The snails are among approximately 900 species listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, half of which are invertebrates. The scheme backed by Department of Rural Affairs uses various wildlife groups and organisations to carry out research into the country's wildlife.

Appeal after woman is harassed

POLICE have released a efit image of a man who harassed a woman in Beaver Lane.

The 25-year-old woman was walking along the street towards Godfrey Walk when she was approached by a man who grabbed her hand and started to talk to her.

She managed to struggle free and ran to a nearby fast food restaurant. However, the man then followed her in a car. She waited at the restaurant until the car left the area then went to a relative who rang the police.

The attack took place at about 7.45pm on October 21. The offender is described as black, about 6ft tall, of medium build, with shaven black hair, and wearing a mid-length jacket. He spoke with a London accent and was driving a pale green coloured BMW.

Anyone with information should call police on 01303 289180 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Bikers back from Africa

THE chairman of an Ashford construction company has just returned from a gruelling off-road ride in Africa.

Darrell Healey from the GSE group was taking part in the Enduro eight-day, 800-mile ride from Port Elizabeth to Durban.

He was one of 13 riders from Kent who raised £30,000 for UNICEF, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and Touch Africa.

Mr Healey said: "It was tough, dusty and tiring. It was one of those things that you talk about over a few drinks in the pub with your friend. Then you find yourself in the middle of Africa, off-road, hot, tired and saddle-sore."

He said there were several times when he felt like giving up on what was his first experience of off-road riding.

Enduro Africa is an annual event. To find out more and how to take part, visit www.enduroafrica.com

Football programme sale

FOOTBALL programme enthusiasts can pick up a bargain at Ashford Town's Homelands Stadium on November 29.

Nine stallholders will be selling a collection of match programmes from down the ages, and money raised at the raffle will be donated to the Bobby Moore cancer research fund.

Organiser Simon Randall said: "I have raised more than £300 selling Bobby Moore items and West Ham programmes in the last two years. Collectors can sell their programmes on the day as well as buying them."

For details call 01622 688216.

Wildcats get party boost

A SPECIAL Hootenanny was held at Port Lympne Wildlife Animal Park for its Scottish Wildcats.

The event raised more than £6,000 for new enclosures for the highly-endangered animal.

A toastmaster in full Scottish clan dress held a charity auction which included several limited edition art prints donated by wildlife artist Martin Aveling, along with a holiday in Florida.

The animals are part of the Aspinall Foundation's conservation programme. To find out more about them visit www.scottish-wildcats.co.uk

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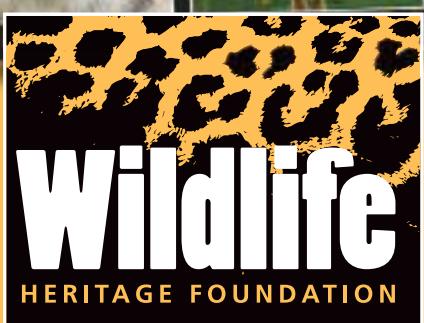
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Will the French ever pay for Stack upset?

■ BY MARIJKE COX

PEOPLE and businesses that lose money because of Operation Stack could have a case for compensation against the French government.

That's the view of Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter who told delegates – including ministers and industry insiders – at a meeting on Tuesday that legal advice had been sought over the impact of French strikes on Kent and its economy.

The meeting at the House of Lords was part of a traffic campaign started by KCC to deal with problems on the county's roads.

During Stack the M20 is turned into a giant lorry park, causing hold-ups and traffic chaos in the area, with huge financial losses for business. Stack is mainly implemented due to French industrial action that blocks the ports, stopping lorries using cross-Channel ferries.

Blockading

Cllr Carter said: "The misery caused to tens and thousands of people affected by the strikes and the impact on businesses and travel plans should not be underestimated. The closure of Calais harms our economy."

It is estimated by the Federation of Small Businesses that blockades at Calais and the subsequent stoppage of crossings costs the UK haulage industry £1 million a day.

And with delays on deliveries and traffic problems caused by Operation Stack a further £500,000 is lost daily.

Cllr Carter said the French authorities could be in breach of EU rules governing the free movement of people and goods when they fail to take action against illegal strikers blockad-



STACKED UP: Operation Stack turns the M20 into a huge car park and has had an adverse effect on the Kent economy

ing French ports. This might mean businesses and residents affected by strikes could receive compensation for losses.

Cllr Carter said: "With the French authorities failing to take action against illegal strike action in Calais they are in breach of Article 28 of the European Commission Treaty. This means they could be liable for damages caused to people who are affected by the blockades. I have written to Lord Mandelson about it. Our Government needs to take this matter to the French Government. It's up to the Government to sort this problem out."

Business secretary Lord Mandelson has agreed to pursue the issue. Cllr Carter also called for a long-term answer to Stack.

"It is essential to find a solution, but we need to find the means to fund it," he said. "Charges should be imposed on foreign lorry drivers using UK roads, which would pay for infrastructure and a long-term plan to deal with Operation Stack."

"Thousands could be raised through this. Foreign lorry drivers already have an advantage over UK hauliers by filling up with cheap-

er fuel before coming to Britain."

As part of KCC's traffic campaign, a formal complaint has been made to the European Commission to highlight the effect of strike action on the county.

Further concerns were raised about the planned expansion of Calais port.

In 2007, about four million lorries passed through Kent via the Port of Dover and this figure is expected to rise by two-thirds over the next 30 years. This could mean even more HGVs parked on the M20 in the event of strikes. But Cllr Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, said his authority was backing the Calais port plans.

"It is crucial for the economy of the UK and Europe that both the ports are able to gear-up to accommodate future growth," he said.

"In the face of an ever-expanding international market, if one is to grow, the other needs to keep pace if balance is to be maintained."

KCC is also pushing for a third Thames crossing to improve connections with the rest of the UK, and greater use of Kent International Airport at Manston in Thanet.



FIND: The straw belle moth is an endangered species

Rare moth the belle of the fall

A RARE moth has been discovered in the county.

The straw belle moth is already on the endangered list, so the discovery made at the National Trust beauty spot of Wrotham Water Farm is of global importance.

The Farm, near Trottiscliffe, has also revealed itself to be the home of other rare species, according to a new report.

Inspections by the Butterfly Conservation Trust revealed the presence of several species of rare orchids, bumble bees and butterflies.

The straw belle moth has been designated a priority species for conservation, meaning extra care must be taken in preserving its habitat to ensure its continued survival.

The area was used to grow wheat and barley, but in 1990 the fields of Wrotham Water Farm were 'returned to nature'.

Under the guidance of the Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Scheme, the National Trust was able to restore the chalk grassland by planting a rare grass seed mix and introducing a grazing regime to help the moth and other endangered wildlife thrive.

County Hall £200m budget shortfall to lead to 600-700 job losses

HUNDREDS of jobs will be lost over the next three years as Kent County Council struggles against a predicted £200 million funding shortfall.

Finance chiefs at County Hall are readying themselves for drastic reductions in the amount of money they receive from the Government, regardless of who wins the next general election.

About £42m of savings have already been identified from next year's budget, but a further £10m still needs to be cut – and between 600-700 posts will be axed.

KCC employs more than 40,000 staff.

However, the authority says it is confident the shortfall will not affect frontline services and the majority of jobs lost will be through natural wastage and non-replacement of staff who leave.

Any council tax increases should also be kept to a minimum and will most likely be below last year's rise of 2.4 per cent.

Cabinet member for finance, Cllr John Simmonds, said: "What's important is we haven't been idle and we've already saved £110m over the last three years because we always knew the gravy train was going to halt.

"It would have been foolish not to plan ahead

and we would be a terribly irresponsible authority if we said we will worry about it next year.

"The headline news looks alarming, but life isn't going to grind to a halt. By having foresight we can minimise the effects, and although it looks frightening on the face of it, we have the time to look at alternative ways of doing things."

KCC officers have been instructed to come up with cost-cutting proposals over the next few weeks, including a review of frontline services to see how funds can be spent more efficiently.

This is likely to result in a major staff reorganisation and a possible sharing of office

accommodation with other public sector partners like the NHS.

Clr Simmonds said existing initiatives were already saving the authority cash, such as a permit scheme that prohibits utilities companies from digging up and subsequently damaging the roads without a licence.

He added: "The review of the front-line services is not for us to see what we can get rid of, but rather what we can use more efficiently."

KCC has an annual budget of £1.5 billion, but economists predict a 40 per cent cut in government support over the next three years.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

BILL BRETT



Q & A

Bill Brett talks to reporter **Jill Hurst** about what's it's like to be one of Kent's largest employers, how he feels about inheriting the family business and what he likes best about living in the county

Q Tell us about yourself.

A I am chairman of the board of Robert Brett and Sons, a construction and building materials firm. We employ 600 people in Kent and it's fair to say this is the heartland of the business. We have depots all around the Kent coast and near most towns across the county.

Q What's the best part of your job?

A Growing the business in the good times, searching out opportunities and developing them. Success reinforces our brand.

Q And the worst?

A Steering the business through hard times, when tough choices have to be made – although I am guided by an enduring principle: what is right for the business.

Q Your family has a long history with Kent. What's special about the county for you?

A It starts with Canterbury – my birth place. I grew up and was educated in the city, and together with my wife Rachel, who also has very strong Kentish roots, have based our family here. We're outdoor people and Kent has many special places. Most weekends we're out and about enjoying them.

Q What are your challenges for the future?

A I have four children, aged from six to 15, and with different interests. Supporting them as they grow provides many challenges. Career-wise, continuing to develop the business. The market is constantly changing, aligning the business with it is a challenge.

the face of difficult decisions.

Q If you could do any other job, what would it be and why?

A I have never contemplated another job. From a very early age this is all I wanted to do.

Q What was the last book you enjoyed and why?

A On holiday I picked up The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson, it was from my wife's book club. Nothing too taxing, this crime thriller was full of intrigue with credible sub plots and relationships.

Q What music are you listening to at the moment?

A Elbow won a Brit Award this year and their CD is at the top of my playlist.

Q If you could go back in history, who would you most like to meet and why?

This is our centenary year and an opportunity to reflect on 100 years of progress. In February 1909 my great-grandfather, Robert, borrowed the train fare to visit Burrell's, makers of steam traction engines, in Norfolk. He persuaded them to sell him an engine and trailers on hire purchase, which he drove to Kent and immediately started work. It would be fantastic to meet him. The company's values start with him and he was a true entrepreneur.

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Wooden Lazy Susan

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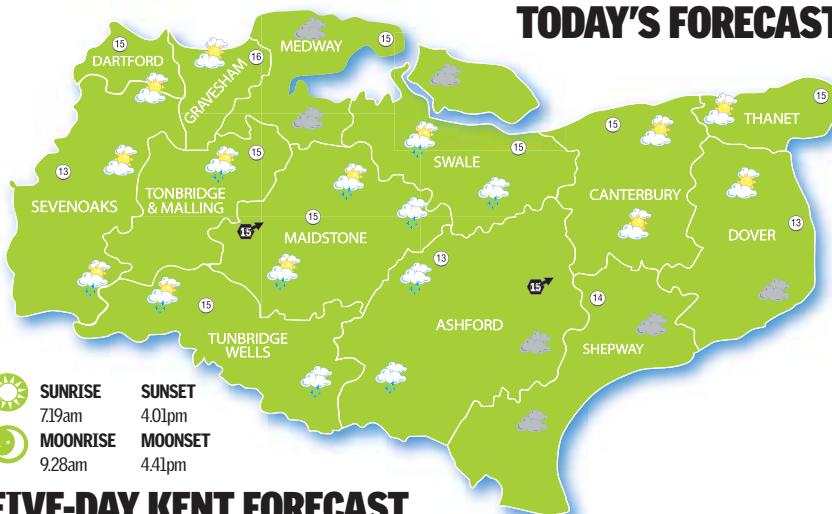


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TODAY'S FORECAST

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|--------|------|
| Chatham | Saturday | 3:16pm | 5.6m |
| | Sunday | 3:55pm | 5.4m |
| Dover | Saturday | 1:28pm | 6.0m |
| | Sunday | 2:07pm | 5.8m |
| Dungeness | Saturday | 1:26pm | 7.0m |
| | Sunday | 2:03pm | 6.7m |
| Ramsgate | Saturday | 1:58pm | 4.6m |
| | Sunday | 2:37pm | 4.4m |
| Sheerness | Saturday | 3:06pm | 5.4m |
| | Sunday | 3:45pm | 5.2m |
| Whitstable | Saturday | 3:15pm | 4.9m |
| | Sunday | 3:52pm | 4.8m |



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Amsterdam | 11°C | Madrid | 19°C |
| Athens | 18°C | New York | 16°C |
| Barcelona | 21°C | Paris | 15°C |
| Beijing | -2°C | Rome | 19°C |
| Bombay | 28°C | Sydney | 30°C |
| Cape Town | 24°C | Tenerife | 26°C |
| Cardiff | 12°C | Tokyo | 16°C |
| Gibraltar | 21°C | Vancouver | 7°C |
| Hong Kong | 15°C | Warsaw | 8°C |
| Las Palmas | 25°C | Wellington | 16°C |

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

| | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Ashford | 14°C | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 13°C | Gravesend | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 14°C |
| Canterbury | 14°C | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 14°C | Maidstone | 14°C | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 13°C |
| Chatham | 14°C | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 14°C | Ramsgate | 14°C | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 14°C |
| Dartford | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 14°C | Rochester | 14°C | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 14°C |
| Dover | 13°C | 13°C | 14°C | 14°C | 13°C | Sevenoaks | 13°C | 13°C | 14°C | 13°C | 13°C |
| Faversham | 14°C | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 14°C | Sittingbourne | 14°C | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 14°C |
| Folkestone | 13°C | 13°C | 14°C | 14°C | 13°C | Tonbridge | 14°C | 15°C | 14°C | 14°C | 14°C |
| Gillingham | 14°C | 15°C | 15°C | 15°C | 14°C | Tun Wells | 14°C | 15°C | 14°C | 14°C | 14°C |



'Belt up and slow down' warns campaign team

CLUBBERS have been taking part in a hard hitting road safety campaign.

The message from Kent Highway Services and Kent & Medway Safety Camera Partnership uses shock tactics to help them realise the serious consequences of driving too fast, not wearing a seat belt and being involved in a serious crash.

The group has designed the campaign specifically for the young age group that is notoriously hard to reach. The 'belt up slow down' campaign team tours the county's pubs, bars and clubs to spread the message.

It targeted revellers enjoying a night out in Ashford. They spoke to young people in the County Hotel and Liquid & Envy and handed out promotional items offering advice.

The campaign uses radio, quirky giveaways, Bluetooth marketing, social networking sites and posters which carry images of the faces of drivers and their passengers, accompanied by the questions 'Who will you take with you? And Who will you leave behind?'

More details about the campaign are available at www.thinksmartdrivesafe.co.uk

you said

You and your children were put at risk from inconsiderate and illegal parking

we did

Ashford Community Safety Unit has been working with schools and partner agencies to deal with the issue, by advising drivers about parking considerately and legally

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| 600h x 1200w | £40.39 | £79.13 |
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- 1000mm Was £401 Now £296
- 1100mm Was £411 Now £299
- 1200mm Was £420 Now £310

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|-------|------------|
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| Wed | 7.30 - 6pm |
| Thurs | 7.30 - 6pm |
| Fri | 7.30 - 6pm |
| Sat | 9.00 - 3pm |
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Charity calls for adopters to think about benefits of taking on siblings

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A LEADING children's charity is urging people in Kent to consider adopting siblings as the number of youngsters in care soars to more than 60,000 nationwide.

Adoption experts at Action for Children said too many vulnerable brothers and sisters are being split up in the county as adopters opt to take just one child.

Carol Buckley, service manager at the charity's south east project, said there is now more than ever a desperate need to find loving homes and for vulnerable siblings to stay together.

Her message comes as National Adoption Week draws to a close and the nationwide figure of children in care reaches 60,900.

About 4,000 of those are waiting to be adopted. Ms Buckley said: "With such a high number of children entering care, the need for adopters is at an all-time high.

"To many, the idea of adopting more than one child can feel overwhelming.

"However, from our own work we know that with the right support, families adopting siblings can flourish. When siblings enter care together and all other family ties have been broken, it's so important that, where possible, we keep them together.

"To do this we desperately need adopters to consider if they think they could take on more than one child."

A lesbian couple who decided to take on two young brothers said it was the best thing they ever did and urged others to consider it.

Important

Ali and Kate, from Erith, who are both experienced teachers, adopted the boys, now nine and 11, six years ago.

Ali said: "Kate already had children from a previous marriage, but I really felt the need to have children of my own.

"The whole adoption process is long and quite intrusive, but I wouldn't want that to put anyone off.

"We came up against some barriers due to the fact we're a gay couple, which came as quite a shock, but in the end we took on two boys and they settled really quickly. It's been an amazing journey for all of us."

Ali said keeping the boys together was very important: "We found out they were originally going to be split up so they would be adopted immediately," she said.

"It was so much better for them to stay



UNDERSTANDING: Toby Anstis was adopted with his twin sister

ADOPTION IN KENT

- On average 100 children are adopted in Kent each year.
- In 2008, KCC placed 90 per cent of children with a plan for adoption within 12 months of the placement order being given by the court.
- In Kent, 1,350 children who have been adopted since 1992, a third of these receive an ongoing service from KCC's adoption support and special guardianship team.
- There are more than 800 contact arrangements with birth parents and their children who have been placed for adoption. KCC promotes working in partnership with birth parents and new adoptive families to encourage contact.
- On average, 60 new adopters are assessed and approved each year. Assessment takes eight months and is extremely rigorous. Prospective adopters need to have demonstrated they have dealt with their own life issues before they can be considered.

together. One of the boys was slightly chaotic when he came to us and splitting them up would have made it worse.

"They still have memories of their mother which they talk about and they really need that."

Heart FM DJ Toby Anstis, can relate to Ali's story having been adopted with his twin sister as a child.

"I can't imagine life without my sister Kate," he said.

Difference

"We've had such a close bond since birth. Fortunately we were kept together when we were adopted. It's a special bond and understanding that has helped us come to terms with being adopted. It's so important that siblings are kept together."

Cllr Sarah Hohler, Kent County Council's cabinet member for children, families and education, said the team at KCC are on hand to talk people through the process of adoption.

"It is difficult to put into words the difference adoptive parents can make to the lives of children and young people," she said. "Similarly, those who adopt find having a family to be an enriching experience."

Call the KCC adoption team on 0845 330 2968 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/adoption.



BROTHERLY LOVE: There is a desperate need for loving, adoptive parents who can keep brothers and sisters together

France in just 35 minutes



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County Square – making Christmas sparkle

Saturday 21st November – see the Christmas lights being switched on at our family fun day

Thursday 26th November – mince pies and music

Late night Christmas shopping. Enjoy mince pies and Christmas classics by The Salvation Army Band between 6.30pm and 8pm.

Musicians will be playing in County Square on Thursday evenings in the run up to Christmas. Check out our website for details.

Saturday 5th December – festive frolics with roving entertainers

Saturday 12th December – Christmas carols with the Ashford Baptist Church and Ashford Rotary Club

Saturday 19th December – FTD Dance Centre Christmas Show

Be entertained by the toe tapping 'Winter Wonderland' Christmas show, from 11am – 3pm, outside Costa Coffee.

Don't forget!

County Square is putting on another fab fashion show on 13th February so come along, be inspired and start looking forward to the spring fashion collection.

Gift wrapping service*

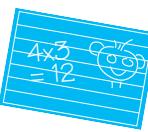
You can take your gifts to be wrapped every Saturday from 21st November until Saturday 19th December, by our Santa's little helpers. They will be located in the lower mall outside Debenhams fashion and will gladly help you to get your Christmas shopping all wrapped up!

* Small charge. All costs for the wrapping service will be donated to Demelza Children's Hospice.

www.countysquareshoppingcentre.com



yourashfordschools



BREAK TIME

Competition was a moving experience

STUDENTS at the Towers School have taken part in a competition based on remembering those who gave their lives in war.

They submitted poems, letters and artwork, which were judged by the town's mayor and representatives of the Ashford branch of the Royal British Legion.

Pastor David Lamb, Chaplain of Royal British Legion Ashford Branch, took assemblies in early October to provide the background to, and inspiration for, the project. Much of the work submitted can be seen on display in St Mary's Church.

The judges were extremely impressed with the quality of the entries, and very moved by the thought and passion that the students had put in to their work.

The overall prize of a £100 gift voucher was awarded to Nesrene Boumnejel, of Year 8, who wrote what judges called "a heart wrenching piece" about her experience of the death of her uncle at the hands of a suicide bomber in Afghanistan.

Poppy man makes a trip to primary

ALSO on the theme of remembrance, a life size model of a man made from poppies visited Victoria Road Primary School.

Jim and Rosemary Butcher, welfare caseworkers for the Royal British Legion brought along the poppy man after a request from headteacher Carol Bursy.

They said they had been very impressed by the children's knowledge of Remembrance Day.



MORNING: South Kent College promoted its business links with the community at a special breakfast attended by the Mayor of Ashford John Holland and chamber of commerce members

South Kent College carries out business over breakfast

SOUTH Kent College promoted its links with the business community over a special breakfast prepared by catering students.

College principal Monica Box welcomed guests, telling them they were not going to receive a hard sell of what the college was able to do for them.

She explained how she came to have enjoyed a long and successful career in education.

She said: "I grew up in a mining village in North Wales where there was full employment. There were 3,500 jobs in the mines – for men.

"Only four women worked in the wages office. So, of course, when I was thinking about what job I would like to do when I left school,

■ BY ED HILL

it was at my school where I could see men and women working that gave me inspiration. And guess what career I chose?"

Based on her experience she said she felt strongly that all South Kent College students should get to see as many potential careers as possible, and it was vital that businesses were involved with the college to open up opportunities to the people who study at its campuses as Ashford, Folkestone and Dover.

She said: "We need to build these links to enable our learners to have the confidence to have a go, to try out careers and to get their first foot on the road to employment and success."

The event was attended by the Mayor of Ashford John Holland, along with members of the local chamber of commerce who enjoyed the breakfast in the refectory at the Ashford campus in Jemmott Road.

Learning manager for health and social care, Nikki Paine, and the college's director of quality and curriculum technology and business, Zeph Norrish, gave presentations about the new diplomas.

They explained how these new qualifications meet the needs of employers who want employees with better skills for the workplace.

College director of 14 to 19 learners, David Cowell-Homewood, said: "It is obvious relationships between the college and local businesses are flourishing."

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

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For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Kent on Saturday or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at www.kent.gov.uk/highways

yourashfordblogger

Simon Robinson comes up with a novel way of cleaning our society of all crime with just one simple test



An instant end to crime while freeing up our motorways...

CRIME rates across Kent are on the decline, new police figures have reportedly shown.

This is undoubtedly good news and a step in the right direction. But while progress is slowly being made, I feel there is a pressing need to eliminate all criminal acts now.

This could be achieved instantaneously by locking up the UK's street-dwelling hoodies, savage granny robbers and other delinquents before they commit their heinous crimes.

This idea was introduced by author Philip K Dick in his 2002 collection of short stories Minority Report, later made into a sci-fi thriller, starring Tom Cruise.

The basic premise is that would-be criminals are identified, arrested and incarcerated before they actually strike, which comes as somewhat of a relief to the would-be victims.

Sadly, neither novel nor film are readily implementable: the film, for example, is set in the year 2054, in which three mutated

humans with precognition powers, known as 'precogs', lead the arrests.

What we need here in the relative Dark Ages of 2009 is a more low-tech equivalent.

Luckily for mankind, I have it.

All we need to do to eliminate all crime is to build a driving simulator, in which the 'motorists' are charged with the simple task of driving their 'car' along the motorway.

And anyone who chooses to limp along in the middle lane when not overtaking a slower-moving vehicle is taken immediately from the simulator and thrown in jail. Forever.

It's as simple as that.

It is an indisputable fact that all Middle Lane Drivers are criminally insane. Why else would they take up the middle lane when not overtaking?

It makes no sense. They simply must be future axe-murderers, faeces-throwing psychopaths and so forth.

The test would only take two minutes.

"OK Mr Smith, sit yourself down and when you're ready take the next left, a slip road on

to the motorway," the examiner would say.

"Rightio," thinks Mr Smith, "I'll just pull out. What a stroke of luck, there doesn't seem to be a single other car on the motorway.

"I think I'll take up the middle lane, thereby forcing anyone behind me to swerve across three lanes to overtake me and then again once they go past me.

"That makes perfect sense to me and doesn't affect any other road users."

At which point the examiner administers a swift baton blow to the back of Mr Smith's head and drags him off to the cells.

The beauty of the system is that everyone's a winner; residents get to live their lives safe in the knowledge that anyone who has interests on their belongings, plunging a knife into their chest or otherwise is locked up, the police force are free to pursue other interests and, more importantly, the motorways are free from thousands of dribbling, barely-conscious, selfish middle-lane driving idiots.

On top of all that, it might make a good film. Someone give Tom Cruise a call.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: **ASH** then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include you name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on 01303 817025 or email him

on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, YourAshford, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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Ashford Town Centre Festive Family Fun Day & Light Switch on

Saturday, 21st November from 11am

Let us entertain you with an amazing show with prizes and fun from the Ashford Hospital Broadcasting Service and a host of entertainment in town and County Square

Cast your vote with live auditions in our 'X'MAS FACTOR' See an electrifying appearance by Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist Martin Matcham and enjoy the Family Fun Day Fun Fair

Come and support local charities in town with their own brand of FUN'DRAISING

Celebrity Light Switch on ceremony from 4pm with Dave Lee; 'Tinkerbell' in the Marlowe's Peter Pan Panto

**X'MAS FACTOR
TALENT SHOW**

**Do you Sing like a Songbird?
Or Dance like a Diva ?**

We have **LIVE AUDITIONS** which could get you straight into Ashford's Got Talent 2010

Register now and let the audience decide on 21st November
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...another great event from the



yourcompetition

WIN a Christmas shopping spree



DEBENHAMS

NOT sure where to start with your Christmas shopping? Well, look no further.

Debenhams Ashford is the place to go for cosmetics, fragrances and fantastic designers to help you hit the Christmas period with style.

Plus, to add to a great shopping experience, Debenhams is having its Christmas Spectacular of up to 25 per cent off all departments for four days only – starting today (Wednesday, November 18) until Saturday November 21 – so don't miss out on this fantastic offer.

And Debenhams Ashford is offering two lucky readers a voucher card worth £150 each to spend in store. To enter, simply answer this question:

When is the Christmas Spectacular?

Send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to: Debenhams Ashford Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is November 25, 2009.

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions, please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the terms and conditions, call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature, please write 'no literature' on your entry.

CROSSKEYS 
COACHES



November

| | | ADULT |
|----------|--|--------|
| Sat 21st | Romford Market | £15.00 |
| Sat 28th | Birmingham Tattoo (2 Days 1 Night) | £97.00 |
| Mon 30th | Maidstone & Newnham Court Shopping Village | £11.50 |

CHRISTMAS TRIPS IN DECEMBER

| | | ADULT |
|------------|---|--------|
| Sat 5th | Christmas at Heaven Farm & Batemans | £19.50 |
| Sun 6th | Frankfurt Christmas Markets in Birmingham | £34.00 |
| Mon 7th | Afternoon Cite Europe | £13.00 |
| Thurs 10th | London Christmas Lights & Sights | £16.00 |
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TALK TIME

SHIRLEY NUGENT

The 69-year-old Oxfam volunteer talks about working in the charity shop



How long you have been a volunteer?

I've been a volunteer at this branch for 11 years. I came down from Northampton where I also worked in a shop. I became a volunteer because I believe that Oxfam does a lot of good work.

I can detect as Scottish Accent where are you originally from?

I'm from the Scottish borders but I haven't lived there since I was 19. I've never lost my accent despite being away so long. I now live in Ashford. I came here after my husband died because my daughter lives nearby. I am very happy there and I have lots of friendly neighbours.

What is it like working in the shop?

Every day is different because you never know what people are going to bring in. I mainly deal with the bric-a-brac. It's amazing some of the stuff people give us. Even if they know it's valuable they're happy to give it to us. One lady donated a load of clocks which I had valued and they turned out to be worth a lot of money. We also had a plate commemorating an expedition to Antarctica which we sold for £100. We try to sell things for the right price although dealers still come in hoping to pick up a bargain. We also sell clothes and books and fair trade goods.

What would you say to someone thinking of becoming a volunteer?

I'd recommend it. It is fun dealing with the customers and with the other volunteers.

YOUR LETTERS



Let's keep town's heritage alive

I agree with Cllr Peter Davidson about retaining the frontage of the old hospital. It's not an unattractive building, and he is right when he says Ashford has a bad record of retaining old buildings.

For a relatively old town, the number of old buildings we have is pitifully small. This should be considered by councillors before they allow the PCT to plead budget constraints over the proposed new health centre.

Yes, we need a new health centre, but must we have one at the expense of the town's history?

I reject the choice the PCT is offering; of course they want to do it for as little money as possible, but that is because money and getting a health centre built is their only concern.

Ashford council must consider the wider implications, not just for us, but for future generations who risk losing out if we demolish the old frontage to suit our short-term financial situation.

Mark Edwards
Ashford



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On www.yourashford.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

Health centre is much needed

Come on Ashford council, try to be realistic! It's almost as if our

council is purposely trying to scupper the new health centre project by nit-picking every single detail. Do they know how difficult it is to get on a GP's patient list, let alone get an appointment?

The town badly needs a new health centre. It was disappointing that the PCT's money has dried up, but against the odds it looks like something may at least happen at some point in the future, if a private company can be found to develop the site.

So making it increasingly unattractive by promising fewer houses and keeping the dilapidated frontage makes no sense at all.

Unfortunately, we have got to the point where we should be begging investors to come forward, not putting them off.

It's not a great position to be in, but that is what happens if you encourage people to move to the town without developing services.

Sandra Robins
Ashford

Poetry book to help the children

I would like to make readers aware of a delightful children's poetry book on sale, with poems selected by famous personalities.

The anthology, entitled 'The Walrus and the Carpenter', will raise money for The Children's Trust, a national charity that provides specialist care for some of the UK's most severely disabled children, and rehabilitation services to children with an acquired brain injury.

All the people who have chosen their favourite verse share a belief that poetry should be fun and memorable – from Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy to McFly, Elaine Paige and Paul O'Grady. A poem from 10-year-old Francesca Major, winner of a competition earlier this year, is also included, with illustrations by children from the Trust.

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Award Winning Company

Launched as part of the Trust's 25th anniversary celebrations in 2009, it is hoped that at just £4.99 – with all profits benefiting The Children's Trust – the poetry book will be a huge hit this Christmas.

The book is available at www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/walrusbook and at most major bookshops from November. 'The Walrus and the Carpenter' is full of fun, so please buy a copy this Christmas.

Jacqueline Wilson, author
on behalf of The Children's Trust

Know your rights when purchasing

In the Sales of Goods Act your contract was with Comet, not Compaq, so any problems are for Comet to resolve for up to six years after buying the goods from them.

I bought an LCD TV from Comet, which failed after three weeks, and they tried to give me a run-around.

I finally spoke to the manager and reminded him of the Sale of Goods act, and that I did have to give them the chance to resolve the issue, but at my convenience, not theirs.

They immediately gave me a replacement.

Their original answer was for me to wait in for an engineer to check

the TV, give me a form and return both to the store. Never again!

Colin, posted on www.kentnews.co.uk

We must get Britain back on the rails

The reduction of rail services between Ashford and Brighton is frankly ridiculous. It can only have a detrimental effect on domestic tourism in both Ashford and Brighton, and Mr Duncan is correct to point out it will also encourage more people to drive. People should be encouraged to use public transport to cut down on pollution and relieve the strain on our roads.

Britain has the most expensive and possibly the worst rail service in Europe, with services getting cut while fares go up. The entire rail service needs to be brought back into public ownership so it becomes a service again, instead of a business putting profits before everything else. Privatisation of public services is not in the public interest, and I would encourage people to keep this in mind at the next general election, as privatisation of the postal service is exactly what the Conservatives have in mind.

Steve Campkin,
Ashford Green Party

Know the signs to prevent tragedy

I would like to remind readers of the dangers of meningitis.

My daughter, Megan, fell ill two years ago aged 16. She's only here today because her boyfriend was alert to the symptoms of meningitis.

I recently shared my story for a BBC Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of Meningitis UK, a charity dedicated to vaccine research.

Although vaccines exist for some forms of bacterial meningitis, there still isn't one for meningitis B – the most common strain in this country.

It's a chilling fact that six families will lose a loved one to meningitis every week, some within just four hours of displaying any symptoms.

In the absence of a vaccine, it's vital people know what signs to look out for. Classic symptoms are a headache, stiff neck and dislike of bright light. With septicaemia, look for aching limbs, cold hands and feet, and a rash which starts like pinprick marks and develops rapidly into purple bruising.

I urge you to listen to my Radio 4 Appeal at www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/appeal where they can find details of how to support Meningitis UK.

Sandi Toksvig, comedian and broadcaster

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Unique accessories make perfect gifts

Vida

POPULAR designer store Vida is getting set for Christmas and the winter weather.

Margaret Bracewell opened the store in November 2007 in the Mersham-le-Hatch business village.

She sells designer handbags, shoes and boots, leather gloves, leather belts and leather jewellery boxes, as well as purses and gloves.

All goods are exclusive and individually sourced and Margaret gives individual and informed advice to each customer.

The store contains a lot of excellent and unusual items which would make great presents, including a range of beautifully-made leather jackets, which are incredibly stylish for the cold weather.

And when it rains, there is a range of chic umbrellas with patterned linings for sale.

Margaret outlined her philosophy when it comes to running a successful business.

"Customer service is vital," she said. "And then there is the type and quality of goods you stock, which must suit the requirements of customers."

"Staff must be very knowledgeable about the products and be able to advise customers accordingly."

"In the case of Vida – the location and the



design of the shop in a beautiful and historic area can only add to the success.

Mersham-le-Hatch is a gem of a setting, with superb businesses as neighbours."

Vida is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 11am until 5pm and Sundays by

appointment. All the stock on show in the store is individually displayed and highlighted, so that its attractive qualities can be best seen.

Vida, Evgate Business Park, Station Rd, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SX

TOP TIPS

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The White House

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Radio ha ha

One of the country's best known and most-loved DJs, Johnnie Walker, reveals all in his frank and funny show at The Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

FROM the boat that rocked to meeting royalty, Johnnie Walker has become a national treasure.

One of the country's best known and most loved radio voices, Walker has always been a champion of music above all else. Spend an evening with Walker and discover how this frank, honest and funny

man became one of Britain's most enduring and popular broadcasters.

In the 60s Walker became the voice of a generation when he broadcast from the pirate ship, Radio Caroline, creating a night-time show that was essential listening for music fans everywhere. He attracted 86 per cent of the night-time radio

audience and had a Europe-wide listenership of 20 million on the night of August 14, 1967, when Radio Caroline continued to broadcast even though Government legislation had taken all other pirate stations off the airwaves.

A move to BBC Radio 1 followed in 1969 and over the next seven years, Walker compounded his reputation as a DJ who valued the records he played far more than the sound of his own voice. His lunchtime show was a launch pad for new artists such as Steve Harley, Lou Reed, Fleetwood

Mac, The Eagles and Steely Dan, but Walker spoke frankly about those acts of which he was not a fan. Describing the Bay City Rollers as 'musical garbage' was one incident which, along with his determination to play album tracks as well as chart hits, led to conflict with his employers.

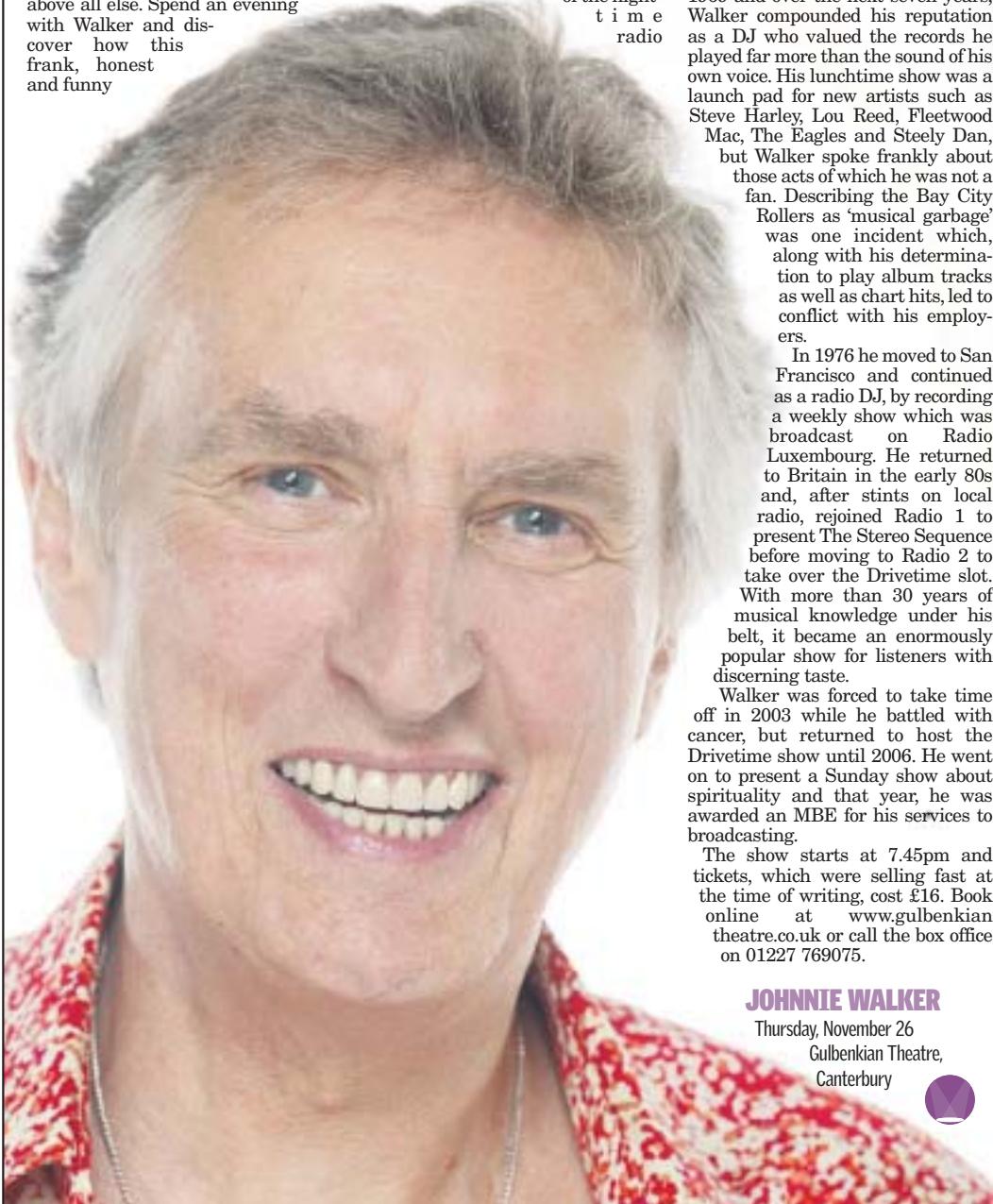
In 1976 he moved to San Francisco and continued as a radio DJ, by recording a weekly show which was broadcast on Radio Luxembourg. He returned to Britain in the early 80s and, after stints on local radio, rejoined Radio 1 to present The Stereo Sequence before moving to Radio 2 to take over the Drivetime slot. With more than 30 years of musical knowledge under his belt, it became an enormously popular show for listeners with discerning taste.

Walker was forced to take time off in 2003 while he battled with cancer, but returned to host the Drivetime show until 2006. He went on to present a Sunday show about spirituality and that year, he was awarded an MBE for his services to broadcasting.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets, which were selling fast at the time of writing, cost £16. Book online at www.gulbenkian-theatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01227 769075.

JOHNNIE WALKER

Thursday, November 26
Gulbenkian Theatre,
Canterbury



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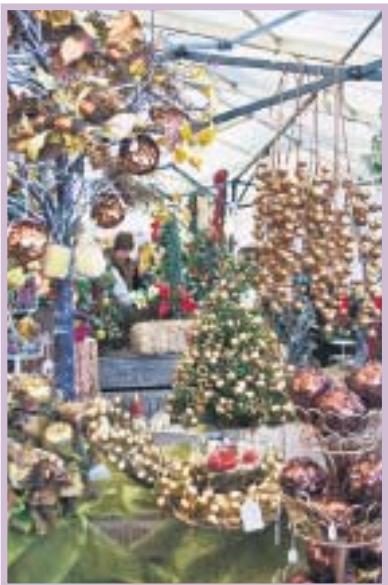
SHOP for unusual Christmas gifts in a beautiful setting as Leeds Castle hosts its annual Festive Fair.

Visitors can browse about 150 stalls in the heated, carpeted marquee on the Cedar Lawn, with live music to enhance the festive atmosphere. From traditional stocking fillers to innovative gifts, high quality clothing to delicious seasonal food, there is plenty to tempt all the family at this exciting event.

Whether you are looking for children's dressing up clothes or hand-knitted mohair coats, leather ware or sheepskin, ceramics or jewellery, the many diverse traders have plenty to discover. Anyone looking for an unusual and adventurous gift can even book a helicopter or balloon flight to surprise a loved one this Christmas.

Taste before you buy from the numerous food and drink stalls, to enjoy a sample of the festive delights still to come. More gift ideas can be found at the Park Shop and Castle Shop, which have been decorated with a magical fairytale theme.

Tickets cost £16.50/£13.50 for adults, £9.50 for children and are free for under-fours. For



more information visit www.leeds-castle.com or call 01622 765400.

TWO colleagues get into step for an extraordinary working day in Flhip Flhop – Everything Happens on the Break.

Rannel Theatre Company's exhilarating show sees two friends attempting to escape the monotony of daily life by taking a different look at the things around them. Competing to entertain each other, curiosity and one-upmanship spur them on in this show which blends elements of hip hop with physical theatre.

Found objects and intricate choreography are used to create an energetic and spontaneous comedy, with highly entertaining results.

Rannel Theatre Company was formed by Joey D and Matt Bailey, both of whom have a background in dance and performance. Bailey has performed in off-Broadway plays and his work as a DJ has taken him across the UK, Europe and America.

MARTIN CARTHY

Saturday, November 21
Orange Street Music Club, Canterbury

FOLK fans have the opportunity to see a true innovator in action when Martin Carthy visits his Twilight Folk Club.

As one of the genre's best loved and most inspirational artists, Carthy has been entertaining audiences for more than 40 years. His accolades range from BBC Radio 2 Folk Singer of the Year to being appointed an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, his most recent trophy being Best Traditional Track for Cold Hail Rainy Night at last year's BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

He picked up the award alongside daughter Eliza Carthy and Chris Wood, one of the collaborations with which he has been so successful. Carthy has also worked with other greats such as Steeleye Span, Dave Swarbrick and his award-winning wife, Norma Waterson. He has released more than 40 albums to date, only 10 of which have been solo recordings, and his overriding motivation appears to be a desire to explore the musical possibilities.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12/£10 in advance, to book call 01227 760801. For more information visit www.myspace.com/twilightfolkclub.



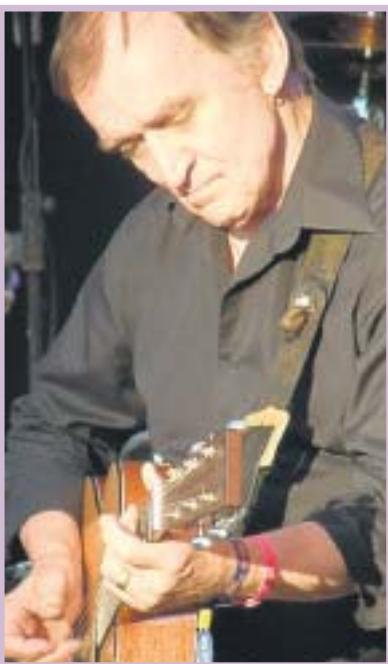
FLHIP FLHOP – EVERYTHING HAPPENS ON THE BREAK

Friday, November 20, Quarterhouse, Folkestone

Only in his early 20s, Joey D has already been representing b-boy culture for 10 years and is known for his originality and aggressiveness in dance battles. He takes part in competitions

and also teaches and leads workshops.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10/£8. Book online at www.quarterhouse.co.uk or call the box office on 01303 858500.



ASHFORD LEISURE

Time to turn on the town's Christmas lights

FESTIVE spirit will be illuminating the autumn evening when Ashford's Christmas lights are switched on.

A fun day of family activities and entertainments takes place from 11am on Saturday at an event run by the Ashford Hospital Broadcast Service. Then the town centre will be all lit up for Christmas when the lights are turned on at about 4.15pm.

Choral society are Bach at parish church

ENJOY the sound of Haydn and Bach at Ashford Choral Society's next concert this weekend.

The society will perform JS Bach's Magnificat and Haydn's Harmoniemusik at Wye Parish Church, Saturday, at 7.30pm. Get tickets at Wye Newsagents in High Street, Ashford Tourist Information Centre and Mrs Wells on 01233 622081. Visit www.ashfordchoral.org.uk.

Sounds of skiffle will be heard in Smeeth

AN EVENING of 'off the rails skiffle' will ensue when Hobo Jones and the Junkyard Dogs perform in Smeeth.

The three-piece band comprises Hobo Jones, Miser Bill and Wino Tyrone. More information can be found online at www.hobojones.com. They will be playing at the Woolpack Inn in Church Road on Saturday. For more details about the venue call the pub on 01303 812196.

It would be a Scandal to miss this live gig

AFTER a 12-year absence, Scandal is back to rock the local music circuit in their own special style.

The four-piece band will keep some of its set from the 90s, which featured hits by Nirvana and Pearl Jam, along with original material. Find out more at www.scandal.moonfruit.com. See the band at the George Hotel in High Street, Ashford, on Friday. Call the pub on 01233 625512.

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yourkenttv.co.uk

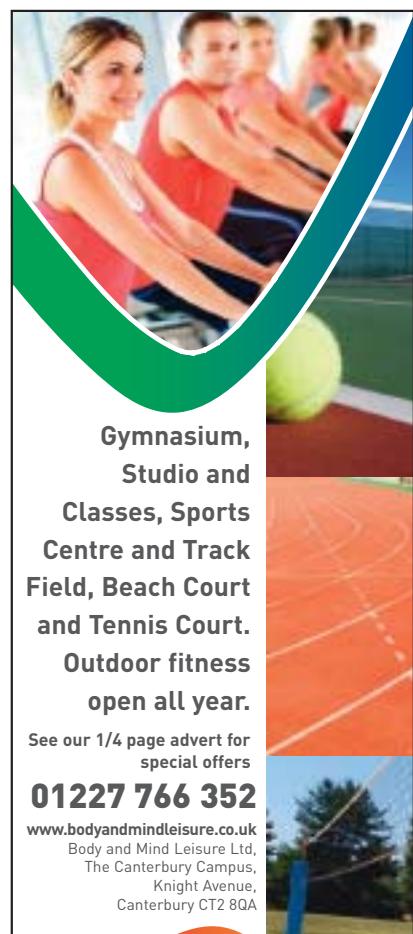
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| Sat | 21 November | 8am - 8pm |



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This holiday, make your festive wishes come true at Debenhams Canterbury, the destination for a designer Christmas. Be sure to update your home for the festivities with classic or contemporary Christmas decorations. We have everything you need for the big day too, from roasting tins to champagne glasses. Choose from hundreds of gifts, including favourites such as jumpers, gloves and sleepwear to the latest toys and games, plus novelty items and stocking fillers.



Turn heads during the party season with stunning outfits, including exclusive collections by Designers at Debenhams including J by Jasper Conran and Star by Julien Macdonald. Don't forget to add the final touches with killer heels, dramatic earrings or sparkly bags.

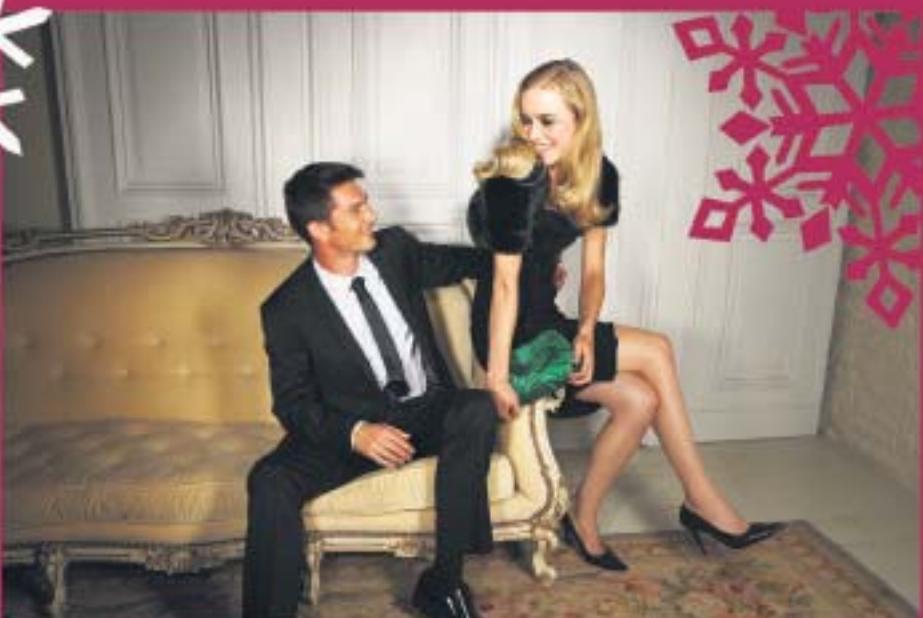


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GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE



For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Kent on Saturday or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at www.kent.gov.uk/highways

yourashfordstyle

Down to a T

Make a statement with a chic or charity T-shirt



To search for shopping, services, leisure and entertainment log on @
yourkenttv.co.uk

ASDA

Ladies' Children In Need charity T-shirt, price £6

**BURTON**

Men's Movember charity T-shirt, price £15

**BURTON**

Men's Movember charity T-shirt, price £15

**BURTON**

Men's Movember charity T-shirt, price £15

DOROTHY PERKINS

Ladies' God Save The Queen T-shirt, price £30

ASHFORD SHOPPING**Skate over to Hop Farm for Christmas shopping**

SHOP for gifts in an atmospheric setting as the Hop Farm hosts a traditional Christmas market.

The attraction in Paddock Wood is running the market village, which is free to enter, until Christmas Eve. Complete with a 65ft Christmas tree, the market will give shoppers the chance to browse stalls offering everything from toys to gift-vouchers.

The Hop Farm's ice-rink is also now open every day until Christmas Eve. Visit www.thehopfarm.co.uk.

You'll be so cross if you miss these celebrations

START the festive season in style as Westwood Cross near Broadstairs launches its Christmas celebrations.

On Saturday the shopping centre will host lots of family entertainment, including dancing displays, songs from Christmas shows and games on the main stage near the sundial from 2.30pm.

The Christmas Market will be open for business from Monday. Find out more online at www.westwoodx.co.uk, or phone 01843 867273.

Little Britain star kicks up a stink at Bluewater

LITTLE Britain star David Walliams will be paying a visit to Bluewater for two special reasons on Friday.

The comedian, actor and author will sign copies of his new children's book, Mr Stink, at Waterstone's from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. He will then make his way to Bluewater's Winter Wonderland to switch on the Christmas lights.

Mr Stink is illustrated by Quentin Blake and published by HarperCollins Children's Books, priced at £12.99.

Support local traders with a new Melocard

SHOPPING locally just became a lot more rewarding with the launch of the new Melocard.

Designed to help support independent traders, the card offers exclusive offers at more than 100 shops, restaurants and businesses in Kent.

The card, priced at £10, gives offers until March 2011 and can be bought online at www.melocard.com/getacard or at MeloSpot locations, which are listed on the website.

You can maximise your shopping online

PICK up some Christmas bargains without leaving the comfort of your desk as TK Maxx offers online shopping.

With the same discounts of up to 60 per cent found in stores, the online shop offers a range of gift ideas for all the family. Men's toys, gadgets and electronics start at just £5.99, while gifts for the lady in your life cost as little as £7.99.

To avoid postal-strike worries, delivery is guaranteed within two days for a fee of £3.99. Visit www.tkmaxx.com.

GREENFIELDS SHOOTING GROUNDS**STAG/HEN PARTIES**

Save £25.00 per person on normal prices
Min 8 persons £40.00 for 25 shots
£45.00 for 50 shots.

Min 15 persons £40.00 for 50 shots
includes full instructions, use of guns,
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- Brings a special lightness to your home
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- Single set comes with one Oxford pillowcase; double, king and superking come with two
- 50% cotton and 50% polyester
- Machine washable.

For more information call
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7355 Single with one Oxford pillowcase
7356 Double with two Oxford pillowcases
7357 King with two Oxford pillowcases
7358 Superking with two Oxford pillowcases

| Price | rrp | Save |
|--------|---------|------|
| £34.99 | £54.99 | £20 |
| £49.99 | £79.99 | £30 |
| £59.99 | £99.99 | £40 |
| £69.99 | £119.99 | £50 |



Save upto £50 on rrp

KOS MEDIA READER OFFER**A must have for every home****Ewbank Evolution II Manual Carpet Sweeper**

Ewbank have been producing non-electric carpet sweepers for over a century and their products are still regarded as the best in the world. This Evolution II manual carpet sweeper is no exception. Just as you would expect, it is lightweight and easy to use. It needs no electricity and is an easy and convenient way to clean your carpets and floors at a moment's notice.



The Evolution II is available in silver for £29.99 and makes a perfect companion for your vacuum cleaner.

Just £29.99

For more information call

0845 165 1004

Quote KOS

Award Winning Company

yourashfordmusic

Funk quartet set to light up stage at jazz event

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

JAZZ supremo James Taylor is somewhat of a musical cyborg – part man, part Hammond organ.

It's difficult to know where the Rochester-born pianist stops and where the organ begins.

What I do know is that James and his three bandmates, who adopted the Ronseal-style fitting band name of the James Taylor Quartet – doing exactly what it says on the tin – have been wowing audiences for 15 years.

If top-notch musicianship, instrumental funk and mind-boggling solos are your thing, the band's pre-Christmas gig at The Farmhouse in Canterbury is definitely for you.

Farmhouse promoter Matt Gough said he was delighted to have the JTQ on the bill.

"There aren't many bands from Rochester that are renowned the world over for their scintillating live performances, but the JTQ are most definitely it."

From first single Blow Up right through to current releases, the band have been at the forefront of the live jazz circuit, recording for Acid Jazz in the 90s, and returning to their Hammond-led funk at the start of this decade.

"The JTQ come to life on the live scene, dispatching improvised solos amidst the tightest modern-dance grooves you could wish to hear."

"Without a doubt one of the most successful bands to ever come out of Kent, we're delighted to have them back for a performance in Canterbury following an absolutely incredible performance at Lounge on The Farm."

Between now and then, the Canterbury venue will stage four other live music nights, starting with Radio 1 DJ and chart-topping



JAZZ MAN: James Taylor, above, brings his quartet to The Farmhouse, where Kid Harpoon, right, will also play producer Toddla T on Friday, November 27.

The following night Joe Lally – bassist in hardcore outfit Fugazi – will perform a number of stripped-down folk protest songs.

December sees a three-night Medway takeover, kicking off with superstar in the making Kid Harpoon's solo set on Thursday 3.

The Kid – whose passport bears the name of Tom Hull – is finally coming good, with new album Once providing the ideal stocking-filler.

Thee Waltons are next up the following night, before the JTQ take over on Saturday 5.

For more information visit www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk.



UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC VIDEOS TO BROADCAST ON OUR WEBSITE @ yourkenttv.co.uk



SPICY TREAT: Tortilla Army can be seen playing to the crowd on The Ether.



BOY BAND: McFly perform at the Rochester Castle Concerts this summer.



TOP FIVE UNSIGNED CHART

- 1 Gristlebridge – Wanna Be Famous (from Whitstable)
- 2 White Eyes – We Are Tides (from Canterbury)
- 3 D-Finitive – Space (from Tenterden)
- 4 Shelta – Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 5 The Phalanxes – The Cure (from Herne Bay)

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The Principal and the Director of Sixth Form will talk at 6.15pm and 7.00pm, followed by an opportunity to tour the Academy's specialist facilities, meet our students and chat to subject tutors about the options open to you.

Parking: Entry to the site will be via Kingsmead, off Park Farm Road. (for map please see website)

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yourashfordtimeout

YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

- THE APPRENTICE USA**
BBC One, 11.20pm, 12.05pm,
Monday
- JAMES MAY'S TOY STORIES**
BBC Two, 9pm, Tuesday

MY fans (there a couple of you out there, right?) will remember earlier this year I wrote that David Dickinson's hair – that monster salt and pepper bouffant – should require a licence.

Well, compared with Donald Trump's strange 'do, David's looks positively normal.

Whatever it is on the billionaire's bonce, I don't think it's natural.

Whether it's a weave, one hell of a comb over, a hair transplant or just a good old-fashioned rug, it's a miracle of modern engineering.

He'd be better off bald, for certain, but I guess having all that money can lead you to believe anything is possible.

The style is available for inspection on The Apprentice USA, currently running on BBC One.

As a programme it's far too brutally edited and sensationalised to be credible, but this double-bill is trashy beyond belief and entertaining enough to keep me awake until late on Monday nights.

It's highly addictive and the candidates happily knife each other in the back to climb the greasy pole, with a spot working for the main man the prize.

Trump commands the screen whenever he is on, and his little 60-second segments of business advice such as "be a team player" are the most obvious statements ever made, yet they are drilled home as though he was the only one to ever have that thought before.

Rocking a silly haircut all of his



A BIG KID: James May returns to his childhood on a grand scale with his BBC Toy Stories show

own, James May is filling his Top Gear's off-the-box time with his rather jolly effort, James May's Toy Stories.

In every hour-long episode the petrolhead grapples with a much-loved toy of yesteryear, such as Lego or Meccano, to produce something mega and odd.

In recent episodes he has built a garden made entirely out of Plasticine, which he exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show, and a giant Airfix-style Spitfire with the help of children.

Despite their initial sneering at something that isn't an iPod or Nintendo DS, most of them looked like they'd never had so much fun.

What I like about May, much more than his Top Gear colleagues Clarkson and Hammond, is he's that little bit more laid back, whereas the other two just come across as trying too hard to impress.

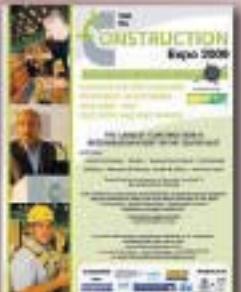
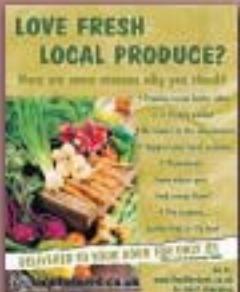
Bumbling around trying to convince people that the old toys were the best is a perfect fit for his persona and, at the risk of sounding like my dad, you may even learn something.

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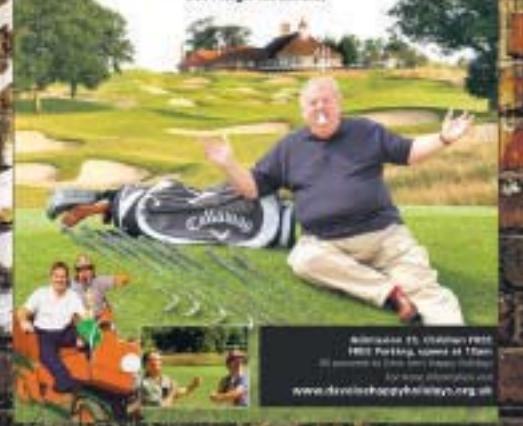


DAVE LEE CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

In aid of three local
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Sunday 4th October at the Chart Hills
Golf Course. Bidding opens 10am

- Live Entertainment • On Site Catering
- Licensed Bar • Celebrity Golfers
- A great day out for all the family!
- Don't forget the camera!



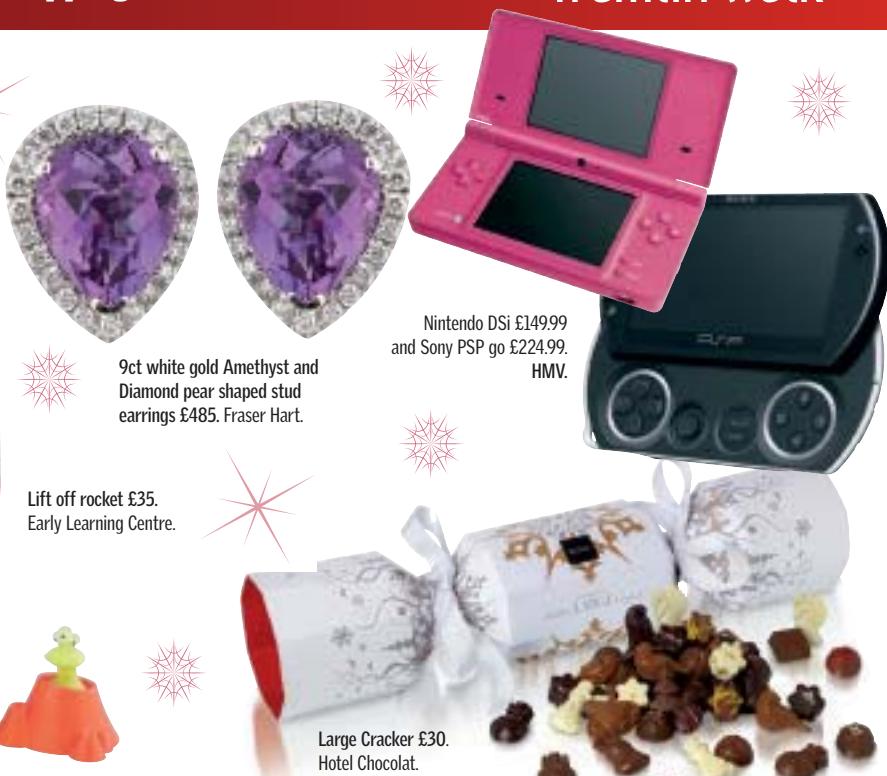
Award Winning Company

3 shopping centres

3 great reasons to
shop in Maidstone

at Christmas





Walking in a





I can't wait to enjoy the festive events going on at Fremlin Walk this winter. I am looking forward to buying gifts from the Christmas markets, mingling with the panto stars from the Hazlitt's Snow White and Seven Dwarfs production and to the reindeer visits. Christmas time always means lots of events so I will be taking advantage of the late opening hours and fantastic shops to find the perfect party outfit and to buy any last minute presents.

Jaine Rees, Fremlin Walk.



Benefit Glam Idol Set
£43.50. House of Fraser.



Soul Cal scarf
£9.99.
Republic.

iPod shuffle from £45, iPod nano from £115,
iPod touch from £149, iPod classic from £189.
All available from Stormfront (The Apple Store).



winter wonderland

Scuffy Puppy £15, Santa Costume £10, Black Rubber Boots £5.50. Build a Bear Workshop.



Small Bauble Tree
£14. Next.



Top Gear Board Game
£19.99 Menkind.



Grey Scruffy Bear £14.99.
 Clintons.



Cable Knit Socks £8
La Senza.



Bailey Button Ugg Boots
£159.99. Schuh

STORMFRONT HMV LA SENZA HOTEL CHOCOLAT WATERSTONES MENKIND BOOTS ORANGE www.fremlinwalk.co.uk

... and then open late every weeknight
from 7 December

IV Your Christmas Shopping Guide at Maidstone Shopping Centres



NEW Continental City Collection. Paris 345g Contains 28 chocolates. £11.99. 695g Contains 56 chocolates. £19.99. Milan 350g Contains 28 chocolates. £11.99. Thorntons.



DS Lite Red with
FIFA 10+
Accessory Pack
(Dsi and DS Lite
£114.99. Game
Station.



Pink Leopard Print Clutch. £6. Peacocks.

For my best friend



£15.00. Card Hall.



Black Luxury Faux Fur
Christmas Shrugs from
£13.99 Christmas
Satin Overspot
Dress from
£15.99. Adams.

All I want



Party season
offers. 2 pairs for
£99. (Above 94738,
below 103111).
Vision Express.

The Sylvanian Families Lakeside Lodge. Was £59.99.
Now Only £29.99. The Entertainer.



Colourworks Vanity
Case. £24.99.
Superdrug



Bingo Crackers 8 per pack.
£6.50. Wilkinson.

Sequin
Dress. £35.
New Look.



Calvin Klein Eternity Moment EDP
Spray 100ml. RRP £54.81. Offer
Price £19.99. (Offer runs from 7
Dec - 27 Dec). The Perfume Shop.

Le Femme Shoe Time Holland & Barrett Envi T-Mobile Bag etc Clintons Shoo Mobile Street Glamour Pop Now
Christmas Kingdom Priceless Vodafone Optical Express Diamond & Pearls Ann Harvey Bon Marche Samantha's



I am really looking forward to this Christmas we have a great new Grotto with little elves and the ever popular giving tree is back for it's fifth year. However, I have had lots of fun checking out all the great things here in the Mall for Christmas top of my list is the Morph Desk Buddy just £4.99 from Hawkins Bazaar.

Suzie Brindle, The Mall Chequers.



Oliver Weber swarovski crystal pendant and bangle gift box £55 (half price sale price). H Samuel.



Phoenix 3 Channel Mini Heli with Metal parts. £24.99. Model Zone.



Chenille Placket £24.99. Blue Inc.



Morph desk buddy £4.99. Hawkins Bazaar.



Find seasonal treats at Poundland.



for Christmas



Sony Walkman NWZ-S45. £119.99. Sony Centre



Black and gold jacquard dress. £50. Miss Selfridge.



Great for Dad

No7 For Men personal grooming gift. £25. Boots.



Olympus E-600 Digital SLR Camera. £549.99. Currys Digital.

Black Buckle Cuff Shoes £55. Bronze Foil Straps Shoes £40. Crackle T-bar Shoes £32. Rainbow T-cuff Ankle Shoes £35. All Next.



The Mall Gift Card

The new Gift Card from The Mall is the perfect gift for everyone. It can be used in any store*, in any of our 20 Malls throughout the country. Purchase the card from the Ask Me point or Customer Service Desk. You decide how much you want to give and can pre-load the card with up to £1000.

Make giving the Spend Me card even more special by wrapping it in our gift packaging, ideal for any occasion. We have 5 different gift packing options including: for Christmas, for birthdays and to say thank you to someone.



Simon Carter, England.
Aspirin Collection £32.
Raffles.



'Frosty Leeds Castle' by Malcolm Hide on canvas £195. Leaf Gallery.



Simon Carter, England.
Luggage collection.£110.
Raffles.

A selection of
healthy goodies
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Matters. Hampers
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Rubens Dolls - Very soft
handmade dolls from
Sweden - prices range
from £22 - £40.
Pregalicious.



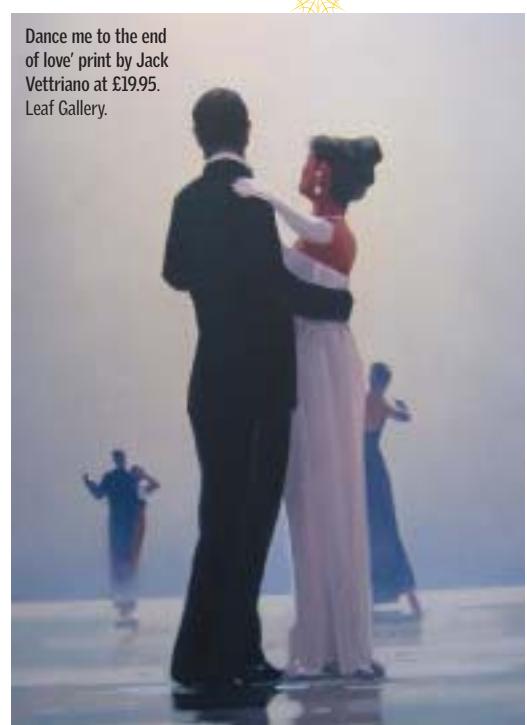
Bravado Nursing Bra
Set; Bra £35, Briefs
£18 also available in
French Vanilla. (Good
gift idea to allow a
nursing Mum to feel
sexy!). Pregalicious.



Simon Carter England Diamante col-
lection cufflinks £45. Raffles.



Lady Heart Collection.
Ring diamond weight 0.52ct.
Necklace - 0.77ct. Kilburn's.



'Dance me to the end
of love' print by Jack
Vettriano at £19.95.
Leaf Gallery.



I am really excited to be working with the Heart of Kent Hospice this Christmas. Teams from the worthwhile charity will be running the Royal Star Arcade's first ever Santa's Grotto – which is going to be great fun for the children and all the proceeds will go towards helping the hospice. I'm also looking forward to having live music and dancers in the centre every Saturday to keep our shoppers entertained while they are searching for the perfect gift. The Royal Star Arcade is ideal for people who want a stress-free Christmas shopping trip as we have lots of different independent stores all under one roof. **Lyne Perriam, Royal Star Arcade.**



Boxed sets of 2 cups £12. Upstairs Showroom of Sia Christmas Decorations and gifts. The Oyster Box.



Ju Ju Be funky changing bags £79. Pregalicious.



Lilliput Lane 'Let It Snow' £16.95. The Oyster Box.

Mum would love this

Fabulous collection of party wear for all ages and is suitable for proms and other special occasions, not just for weddings! Berketex Bride.



Willow Tree Nativity £68. The Oyster Box.

little star



Rococo gilded mirror £39.99. 100's of gift ideas for the coming Christmas season. We also have 100's of great value stocking fillers to help make your present buying so easy. Merchant Chandler.



Vintage clock £8.99. Merchant Chandler.



I would like

Heart shaped diamond set 0.32ct. Kilburn's.

See Santa and his Real Reindeer

November 28,
December 5,
11am - 4pm



Meet Santa

Nov 14 - 24 Dec, 10.30 - 3pm

Meet Father Christmas daily. All proceeds will be donated to local charity. Call 01622 756866 for further information.



Mulled Wine & Christmas Choir

December 3, 5pm onwards

Warm mulled wine, mince pies and the sounds of a Dickensian Christmas Choir provide a relaxing backdrop to festive late night shopping.



The Giving Tree

November 14 - 22nd December

Donate a gift this Christmas and make a child in our community very happy.



Scalextric Fun

November 27 - 28

Join in the fun outside The Entertainer where there will be a large Scalextric track to try out those racing skills.



Santa Arrives!

November 21

Grotto open. Being run by the Heart of Kent Hospice. All proceeds to HOKH. Post your letter to Santa. Music, dance. Festive fun.



KCC Craft Fayre

December 3

10 - 3 pm. Great gifts for all the family, all under one roof.



Festive Fun

December 19

Festive fun in the Arcade with magic, dance, music, mulled wine, mince pies, carol singers. Come and see the reindeers.



Festive Italian Market

December 11 & 12, 9.30 - 5.30pm

Stalls filled with delicious Pannetone and other traditional Italian Christmas dishes line the Walk as the centre's popular continental market returns on Friday and Saturday. Father Christmas will also be visiting and entertaining younger guests.

Christmas Market

December 17-20

Christmas market stalls selling crafts and delicious festive foods will fill the Walk. Father Christmas will also be visiting so don't forget your list!





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7459 30m porous hose - £24.99

9926 60m porous hose - £39.99 **SAVE £9.99**9927 90m porous hose - £49.99 **SAVE £14.25**

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- Operates at low pressure from the mains
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- Can also be used with a water timer and irrigation system
- Standard set is 30m long, and comes in 2 x 15m lengths
- 60m set is made up of 4 x 15m lengths
- 90m set comprises 6 x 15m lengths
- The hoses can be used separately or joined (fittings included)

Award Winning Company



Award Winning Company

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GO GREEN... ORDER FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE ONLINE

Offer valid for Christmas pre-orders over £100 between now and 30th November. Deliveries will be between 21st - 24th December as convenient. When choosing which offer you would like simply type in the promocode at the checkout stage, "KOSXMAS" or "KOSTEN"

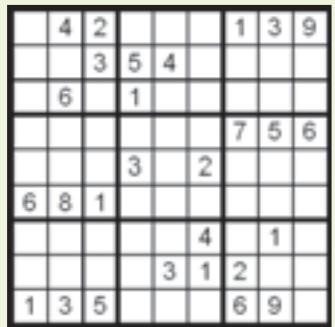
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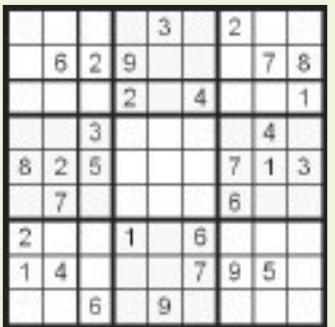
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

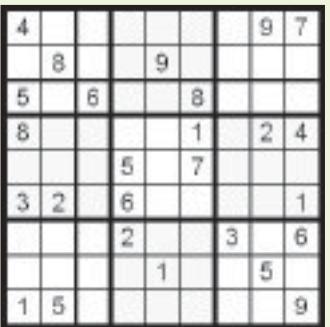
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

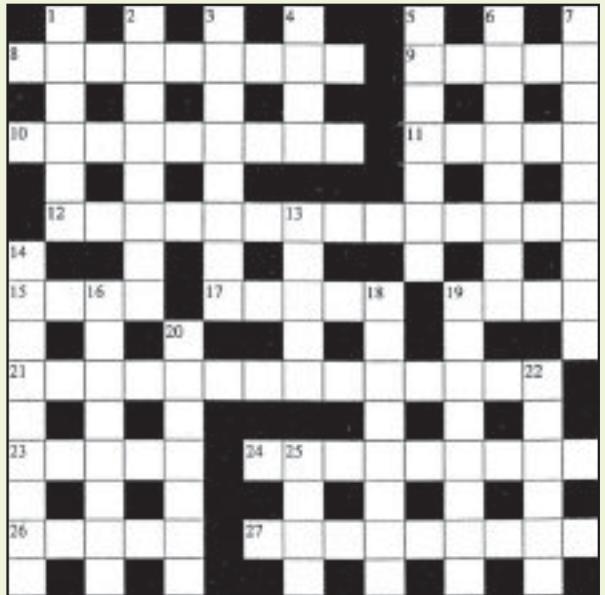
ACROSS

8 Purge out being mostly innocent inside old entrance (9)
9 Extreme characters going by the water that's blue (5)
10 Formerly simultaneously (2,3,4)
11 Man said to assume a praying position (5)
12 Making the first attack after a spell, it's an attractive way of trying to get what one wants (5,9)
15 The man to get by (4)
17 It's liquid tending to flow (5)
19 Streak from vine (4)
21 Continental water? (9,5)
23 Savage hesitantly entered Cornish river (5)
24 Speed that could be injurious (9)
26 Hooded bird? (5)
27 Because of engineers entering new assault (2,1,6)

DOWN

1 Was to do with the ear? That's outlandish (6)
2 Daughter inside hurried up in landing-place in a dilemma (8)
3 Urge race official with hourglass (3-5)
4 Team leader entered total of partly fermented wine (4)
5 Support gambling (7)
6 Young June with live performance (8)
7 Healthy state despite shocking binge after spring (9)
13 Most of money soldier had for mushrooms (5)
14 Start removing crossing-place in North London (9)
16 Bachelor having awful bother with loose garment (8)
18 Freeholders' money Ray changed (8)
19 Capitalists from Austria (8)
20 Plainer sort of chocolate (7)
22 Delightfully found one in North Carolina cathedral city (6)
25 Some citrus (kiwi) fruit in biscuit (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

8 Shoulder-piece (9)
9 Brume (anag.) (5)
10 Physically big and strong (4-5)
11 Oscillate (5)
12 Prophesied (14)
15 Residence (4)
17 Electronic message (5)
19 Joke (4)
21 Of birds (14)
23 Prizefighter (5)
24 Foyer (9)
26 Raced (anag.) (5)
27 Subdue (9)

DOWN

1 Maintenance (6)
2 Use a levelling machine (8)
3 Series (8)
4 And elsewhere (2,2)
5 Clump of grass (7)
6 Wormwood liqueur (8)
7 Stiff coldness (9)
13 Undersized (5)
14 Reversion (9)
16 Carbon ___ (8)
18 Bandage (8)
19 Foot and knee covering (8)
20 Cook rapidly in a pan (4-3)
22 Quietened (6)
25 Jealousy (4)

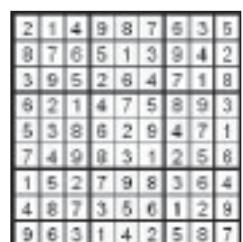
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No113

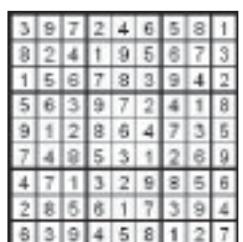
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC SOLUTION No113

ACROSS: 1 Aquarius 6 Beside 9 Kismet
10 Buttress 11 New departure 13 Sloth
14 Steadfast 17 By-product 19 Fleet
21 Kitchen-range 24 Ferocity 25 Rookie
26 Sneeze 27 Naked eye. **DOWN:** 2 Quip
3 Axminster 4 In town 5 Subject 6 Betrayal
7 Sprat 8 Distressed 12 Clay-pigeon 15
Falsehood 16 Adhesive 18 Carry on 20
Anorak 22 Cron 23 Tiny.

QUICK SOLUTION No114

100m set 12m diameter 25m length
7m diameter 18m length 19m depth 20m
7m diameter 33m length 21m depth 16m
3m diameter 45m length 6m depth
Overpower 24m length 26m depth 20m
23 Boxer 24 Swell 19m set 21m depth 16m
Home 27 Email 19m set 21m depth 16m
Whale 28m length 22m depth 16m
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Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

yourashford cinema



ON GENERAL RELEASE

THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (15)



George Clooney stars in *The Men Who Stare At Goats*, a deranged tale of US servicemen who are trained to become Jedi warriors, capable of killing with mind-power alone. Ewan McGregor co-stars.

MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT (PG)



Hastily constructed from hundreds of hours of rehearsal footage, Kenny Ortega's documentary is a glowing tribute to the King Of Pop as he prepared for the most spectacular shows of his career.

UP (U)



The latest masterpiece from Pixar is an airborne adventure in the company of a cranky old man and an excitable young boy. The opening 10 minutes are among the finest Pixar has ever crafted.

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Sir Michael goes back to his council-estate roots

■ BY KATE WHITING

PERHAPS it's due to his advancing years, or because he still thinks of himself as an inner-city boy with nothing to lose, but either way Sir Michael Caine is happy to be utterly candid.

Talking about everything from his pet-hates, UK taxes and box-office flops to all those remakes of his classic films, the 76-year-old actor Sir Michael is as open as they come.

But it is his childhood which is the focus of public interest as fans await the release of his latest film, *Harry Brown*.

Set on a council estate in south London's Elephant & Castle, not far from where he grew up, Michael plays the eponymous hero – a widowed pensioner living in a concrete high-rise who fights back when his only friend is murdered by a local gang.

"The film is a sort of wake-up call to people. I know what it's like because I come from there, but for people who don't know about it, we have now got into this circle of drugs and violence and killing. And if you don't do something about it, it's coming to a street near you."

Sir Michael was born to a cook and a fish-market porter and lived in a prefab council house, some 500 yards from the block of flats where he filmed *Harry Brown*.

"In that estate you see in the film, there's a plaque on the wall with me on it, a sort of dedication to me."

Any other actor might have been concerned about filming night-shoots in such a rough location, but Sir Michael felt very much at home among the locals.

"I had an incredible experience there. I worked there for weeks at night and I met all these guys and I became fascinated by them.



CANDID: Michael Caine is happy to shoot from the hip

"And I got a sense that we had let these guys down. It's all right to say 'These scumbags, they're knifing, shooting, killing, selling drugs', but they have no sense of direction.

"If you're a young man and you grow up in that atmosphere, you have to join a gang,

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otherwise you're dead, or smashed to pieces if you walk around on your own."

Back in the 1940s, when Michael was a teenager, things were very different.

"There was violence, but not the kind you see today. Our drugs were alcohol and our weapons were boots and fists.

"I had a very tough father and a very tough brother and if anybody ever came to our house, they never came again," he adds, with a smile.

For all the hardship of his early years, Sir Michael remembers having two forms of escape, which helped to shape his future.

"One of them was the library – I'm still to this day an incessant reader – and the other was the cinema. If I liked a movie, I would go every day and see the same movie. You could just sit there all day. That was my escape."

HARRY BROWN 
Certificate 18

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Ditch the diet for beer and chips

■ BY SHARRON LIVINGSTONE

IT'S fun to go off the beaten track sometimes, but if all you want is a brief, indulgent break, then the city of Bruges will release your inner lip-smacking, camera-swinging, beer-swilling, sight-seeing, chip-guzzling, chocoholic tourist.

Bruges is home to just 20,000 people, yet more than 3,000,000 tourists visit each year.

It may be the canals that flow beneath flower-decked, arched stone bridges, or the quaint cobbled streets. Whatever the reason, this ancient city – just a short hop across the Channel – exudes romance from every nook and cranny.

Once there, take a 20-minute canal boat trip for an orientation tour.

Alternatively, relax in one of the alfresco cafés on Market Square and enjoy the clip-clop of horses' hooves. If you have the energy, climb the tower's 366 steps to enjoy the views.

Nearby Burg Square has the city's most striking architecture. A Gothic town hall with lacy white stonework nestles next to the old Public Record Office, built in Renaissance style, and beyond it is the neo-classical former Court of Justice and the Gothic/Renaissance Steeghere, whose porched entrance leads to the Basilica of the Holy Blood.

If you crave culture, pop into the Groeninge art museum (12 Dijver). Inside is an impressive display of Flemish art from the 15th century onwards. The nearby Gruuthusemuseum (17 Dijver), a former medieval merchant's house, has an interesting collection of tapestries and musical instruments.

Beer-drinking is part of the social fabric of Belgian life and it would be churlish not to



LOCAL FLAVOUR: Enjoy a beer and the clip-clop of horses' hooves as you relax in elegant Market Square in Bruges

visit Bruges's last remaining brewery, De Halve Maan (at Walplein 26; www.halvemaan.be), where a 45-minute tour (5.5 euros) ends with a glass of the house beer.

You could also visit one of Bruges's most popular beer bars, Brugs Beertje (Kemelstraat 5; www.brugsbeertje.be). There are more than 300 beers, including sickly-sweet fruit beers and a selection from small Flemish breweries.

Leave room for the sublime Belgian chocolates. Within walking distance of the centre, there are a staggering 40 chocolateries with enticing shop windows choc-full of pralines, figurines, sweets and slabs.

Dumon (Simon Stevinklein 11 www.chocolatiendumon.be) has a small café where you can enjoy a glass of hot chocolate, and the Chocolate Line, where chocolate is not only for eating and drinking... it's for inhaling, too.

There is a chip museum, but I would miss that in favour of the real things at a friterie. This is true Belgian street food, made with Mirabelle potatoes served in a carton, with wooden fork and a dollop of mayo or ketchup

You can get any type of cuisine in Bruges, but for a superb feast of Flemish food make a beeline for De Vlaamse Pot (the Flemish Pot) at Helmstraat 3-5. Plush red walls, ornate chairs, gold trimmings and chandeliers set the scene.

Cheese croquettes, asparagus in a sublime butter-and-egg sauce, and my personal favourite, waterzooi – a dish of white fish served in a creamy soup – are all on the menu.

A word of warning, though: Bruges is all about indulgence, so ditch the diet and prepare to dabble with debauchery, otherwise you'll feel you're missing out.

FACT FILE: BRUGES, BELGIUM

Time difference +One hour (GMT)

Language Dutch (English widely spoken)

Currency Euro (approx £1 to £1)

Religion Catholic

Population 20,000

Getting there

Bruges is just 90 minutes' drive, and 72 miles, from Calais.

Sharron Livingstone was a guest of P&O Ferries, which offers 24 daily crossings between Dover and Calais from £30 return for a car and up to nine passengers.

See www.poferries.com

For further information on Bruges, go to www.visitflanders.co.uk, or phone Tourism Flanders-Brussels on 0207 307 7738.



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**PROPERTY NEWS****Kings Hill cottages that have a feel for tradition**

COTTAGES being built by Hillreed Homes in West Malling are being created in a traditional style.

Developers say they take owners 'back to basics' in terms of quiet lanes and attractive exteriors of different homes at the Kings Hill site.

Internally, they tick all the boxes for modern-day living, being eco-friendly properties with excellent insulation and low-cost maintenance.

Building is just commencing, with the first homes expected to be in the spring. Currently, there are opportunities to buy at 2009 prices.

The Hillreed Homes website, www.hillreed.co.uk, has a full list of prices and images.

The price of a farmworker's cottage is £259,950. This is for a three-bedroom, semi-detached house with parking.

**'Property millionaires' hit by slump in market**

THE recent slump in the property market has had a marked effect on those who have made a fortune through owning homes.

Research from Zoopla.co.uk, the online property website, has revealed the extent to which property millionaires in the UK have suffered since the housing market peaked in autumn 2007.

According to the website, the number of million-pound properties in the UK has dwindled by more than a third since the downturn, despite the recent turnaround in property values.

Alex Chesterman, the founder and chief executive of Zoopla.co.uk, said: "The housing-market downturn has taken its toll on the exclusive property millionaires club, reducing the number of those who can claim membership from 283,168 in November 2007 to only 183,630 today."

Broadband speed blow to rural homes demand

BROADBAND speeds can affect how desirable a property is, according to a recent study

A survey by ISPPreview.co.uk, a source of internet service provider information, has established that no matter how sought-after a property is, most people would not buy it if the best broadband speed it could achieve was just 1Mbps.

The survey, which questioned 721 people, also found that a little over half, 51 per cent, are willing to pay more for a house with faster broadband.

Almost two-thirds of those questioned said the minimum broadband speed they required would be "more than 4Mbps", with just one-fifth voting for 4Mbps itself and 10 per cent voting for 2Mbps, while just 6.6 per cent voted for 1Mbps.

Emphasis

ISPPreview.co.uk's editor and founder, Mark Jackson, said: "Consumers clearly place a significant emphasis on broadband performance, so much so that an overwhelming majority would even be willing to give up on an almost perfect dream home in favour of a cosmetically less attractive one that received faster speeds."

"The results could have profound implications because many slower homes are often found in remote and rural locations that reside further from their local telephone exchange, hinting at the potential for a greater exodus into towns and cities where speeds are higher and prices lower."

According to Mr Jackson, the findings of its survey "highlights the importance of being able to deliver speeds of more than double the current Government target, which is committed to delivering a minimum 2Mbps broadband speed to everybody by 2012. This may now simply end up being too little, too late."



DEAL-BREAKER: It may be your dream home, but if broadband speeds are slow, you could have a job selling your property

Rise in prices 'likely to continue'

IN its latest survey of the housing market, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says that UK house prices are likely to keep on rising for the short term.

The news, which was released this month, is a welcome boost for the economy, which failed to emerge from recession in the third quarter.

Meanwhile, according to the institute, the balance of surveyors reporting price rises rather than falls rose to 34 per cent, up from 20 per cent the previous month, and the strongest survey result in favour of rising prices in almost three years.

House price indices from the Nationwide and the Halifax have both reported rising house prices, but the Halifax has cautioned that the momentum was unlikely to continue since more homes were being put up for sale and this would, in turn, result in a slowdown in the demand for homes.

Jeremy Leaf, of the RICS, said: "Although the supply of property is beginning to pick up, it is still insufficient to keep pace with the increase in demand, which points to further price gains in the near term."

"Cheap money remains a critical prop for the

market and this is being reflected in the continuing appetite for finance from first-time buyers, despite the large deposits still being demanded by lenders."

In the meantime, over the last three months completed sales have continued to rise steadily to an average of 19 per surveyor, representing a slight rise on the previous quarter.

In other recent news, the British Retail Consortium revealed that retail sales in October had surged by an annual rate of 3.8 per cent, further fuelling hopes that a recovery was gathering pace.



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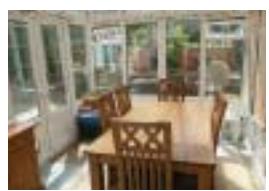
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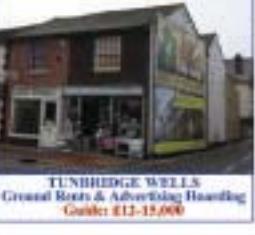
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Parcel of Land with Potential
Guide: £125-135,000



CHATHAM
House for Improvement
Guide: £120-125,000



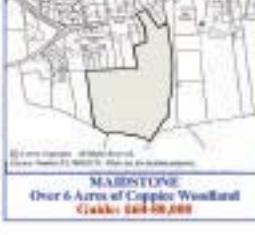
CHATHAM
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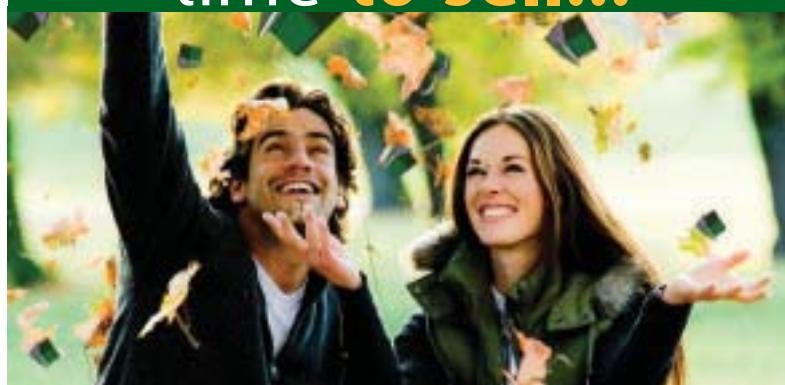
Ashford £159,999

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OIRO £155,000

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ASHFORD



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- Family bathroom
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Bluebell Road £575pcm



- 1 Bedroom Fogge Style apartment
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- Garage

Bluebell Road £600pcm



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- Double Bedrooms
- Popular location
- Kitchen with white goods

Manor House Drive £675pcm



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- Lounge, Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Garden

Manor House Drive £700pcm



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- Semi-detached
- Open plan Lounge/ Diner
- Garage

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- Popular Village Location
- Garage

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Enquire Headcorn

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Halling



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The screenshot shows the homepage of PropertyforKent.co.uk. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, Residential, Lettings, Overseas Property, Sell your home, and Contact us. Below the navigation is a search bar with the placeholder 'Search for homes in Kent'. The search form includes dropdowns for Type of Property (All houses), Number of Bedrooms (All bedrooms), Price Range (£0 to £5,000,000), and Location. There's also a 'Search Radius' section with options for 'Exact location', '0 Miles', and '5 Miles'. To the right of the search form, there are two small images: one of a couple sitting on a sofa and another of two people in a room. Below the search form, there's a 'Mortgages' section with a link to 'Search through 1000s of mortgage deals, get a quote and apply online...' and a 'Sell Your Home' section with a link to 'Click here to advertise'.

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The smart way to find your next home



MOTORS NEWS



Peugeot's niche buster to take on the Qashqai

PEUGEOT'S new 3008 crossover has arrived to attack Nissan's highly successful Qashqai.

The French 'niche buster' blends MPV, SUV and family hatch styling and load-carrying versatility.

There is no actual 4x4 option for now, but a hybrid with electric motors powering the rear wheels is due later and there is a cost-effective £450 Grip Control option for now. This mimics the powers of a modest 4x4 or 'soft roader'.

Prices range from £15,995-21,895.



Renault proudly unleash their ultimate Mégane

SPORTING sub-brand Renaultsport has created the ultimate performance Mégane – at least for now.

The Mégane Renaultsport 250 has a 2.0-litre turbocharged engine and choice of two chassis: standard Sport and Cup, the latter featuring a limited slip differential.

The newcomer echoes the Mégane Coupé's sleek lines, but gains extended wheel arches for 18 or 19-inch wheels and a front bumper with wide air intake and F1-type aerodynamic blade.

Prices start at £21,995.



Superb extra capacity and luxury from Skoda

SKODA launches its most luxurious estate car in January – a version of the affordable Superb executive saloon/hatch.

The Czech marque says it has a class-leading load capacity of 1,865 litres – and a choice of three petrol and three diesel engines.

Buyers can also opt for a VW group twin-clutch gearbox – the auto that can be driven as a manual – with similar or better fuel economy. An electronically operated boot opening and panoramic sunroof are further options.



SMALL WONDER: Toyota's new IQ3 delivers more acceleration and power than the entry level IQ, but is £2,000 dearer and has higher CO2 emissions meaning £35 road tax a year

Toyota challenges your IQ

HAS Toyota been just too clever by launching its IQ3 city car with a 'big' engine?

It certainly doesn't add up at first: the IQ3 (from £11,615) is £2,000 dearer than the 1.0-litre IQ entry model, higher CO2 emissions (113g/km) mean losing road tax exemption and paying £35 a year and it averages 5.6mpg less than the smaller engine.

But would-be buyers must use their own IQ here: in three-cylinder 1.0 form, the IQ is a real city car, though you could drive longer distances occasionally, especially as the wide track and spacious front cabin make it feel like a larger vehicle.

But the four-cylinder 1.3 engine delivers more acceleration and, crucially, more cruising power and refinement than the 'three-pot' as I found when road testing a car from Motorline Toyota at Canterbury.

This makes the IQ3 great for commuting into London or across Kent as well as town driving and a better all-rounder and potentially someone's only car, where as the original might be stretched to be more than a second car.

The IQ3 also suits an automatic 'box, which

ROAD TEST

TOYOTA IQ³

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal



Image



Space



Value



Running costs



Reliability



Green rating



fits the ethos of a small city runabout; auto changes in the original IQ feel more frantic.

Overall IQ attributes are impressive: it is just 30cms longer than the rival Smart ForTwo yet gains two seats.

However, the seat behind the driver is virtually useless. The front passenger seat is staggered close to the dashboard though, so an adult can sit behind – just.

So we have a 3+1-seat car rather than a full four-seater and the '+1' is really the boot as there is barely any space behind the rear seat-belts.

Nevertheless, the IQ shows masterly packing and its low stance and wider track, largely overcomes pitching expected from such a short wheelbase car. The IQ drives and handles well for its size too.

Interior quality and trimming is superb, but could be funkier to attack the Smart.

On the other hand, this is the 'Lexus' of city cars and comes with no less than nine airbags – it may be small, but it is very safe.

Nevertheless, Motorline admits the 'Lexus' price tag can make some buyers turn to the Japanese brand's slightly bigger yet cheaper full four-seat Aygo.



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- 08 58 Iveco Cargo 75E16
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- 07 07 Iveco Cargo 75E17
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06 56 Iveco Cargo 75E17

20ft box tuckaway t/lift, 70,893km

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 100MJT 2.2lt, 24,037 miles

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Applicants must have their own vehicle
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We provide full training, uniform, equipment, CRB check and weekly pay at good rates.

Please call 01797 361889
E-mail countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk
Fax No. 01797 367493

Black Tie Foods Ltd
Sales People
required
No experience necessary.
Full training and vehicle provided.
Call 01732 760484

Souffle Restaurant
Bearsted
Experienced Commis Chef
required to join our professional team
A perfect opportunity to progress within award winning restaurant.
Please call 01622 737065

Assistant Manager Required For Residential Care Home

In Folkestone

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person.
Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019

Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

Come and Join Us...

We are a dynamic team where you can really make your mark....

We get results in our state of the art building set in landscaped gardens and can offer a vibrant atmosphere and excellent opportunities to make a difference. We unleash the enthusiasm and expertise of our people and have won the Sunday Times "Best Companies to work for" award four times.

After spectacular growth in 2008, and as the market leader in Holiday Add-ons, (Airport Parking, Hotels & Theatre/Theme Park breaks) we now employ 900 people across the UK & Germany with a turnover of £170 million... and we're still growing!

We are looking for dynamic individuals to join our expanding MI and Web teams at our Newington HQ. We can offer a competitive salary along with some great benefits.

Permanent Roles

- MI Analyst - c£25,000
- Web Developer - c£22,000
- Email Template Builder - c£18,000

8-Week Contracts

- Infrastructure Architect - c£400 per day
- Program Manager - c£400 per day
- Integration Architect - c£400 per day

Interested? Please visit our recruitment website www.holidayextras.com/jobs for more information on the above roles. Additional roles coming soon. Closing dates vary per role. No recruitment agencies.



KOS Media is a highly successful newspaper publisher within Kent, that has received many awards from the newspaper industry.

We now have vacancies in our Production Department for experienced

Mac Operators

We are looking for experienced, confident and self-motivated team players, preferably with newspaper experience, who are seeking to further their career within the industry. The individual must have relevant Mac experience, including knowledge of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator.

The position involves creating visuals for customers, ad setting, including property and motors, creating classified sections and make-up of pages to be sent to our printers. The candidate should be able to work under pressure, meet strict deadlines and be eager to work within a team environment to ensure the smooth operation of our fast-paced production department.

Hours will include a Saturday or Sunday.
Previous applicants need not apply.

To apply, send a CV and covering letter to:
Personnel, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road
Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SR
or email: personnel@kosmedia.co.uk



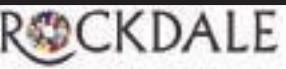
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are seeking a
**PERSONNEL & OFFICE
ADMINISTRATOR**

who will also carry out Reception duties 1 day per week.
Must have good literacy, numeracy and IT skills.

35-37 hour week with some flexibility
Starting Salary £16,649 per annum (FTE)

Contact

Jay Drake, Personnel Manager on 01732 458762
for more details and an application pack

Senior Lettings Negotiator

Belvoir Lettings Rochester are looking to recruit a full time experienced negotiator. An understanding of the lettings process is essential.

Excellent communication skills, sales & lettings background, basic IT literacy, and a full/clean driver's licence are essential.

Basic Salary will be £13K - £15K dependant upon experience - targeted earnings of £18K - £20K.

Applications in writing with a current C.V. by 30/11/2009 to:

Mr. P Huane

Belvoir Lettings Rochester
8 Victoria Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1XH



Account Manager

Heart Kent

Package: Competitive + Commission + Car + Phone + Benefits

Heart in Kent is the county's largest radio station with nearly 400,000 listeners and we're over twice the size of our nearest commercial rivals. We're part of Global Radio, the UK's largest commercial radio company and we own stations like Capital FM, Classic FM and Heart.

A rare opportunity has arisen for an experienced media sales person to join one of Global Radio's most successful sales teams as an Account Manager. Based at Heart Kent's studios and offices in Whitstable, the position involves selling airtime, sponsorship and interactive properties to large clients across the county.

To apply for this position, please email your CV and covering letter to neil.webster@heart.co.uk quoting "Account Manager - Kent" in the subject field.

Closing date for applications: 18th November 2009

In the promotion of equal opportunities, Global Radio welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



Coffeeshop Supervisor (P/T) Canterbury

Food Services Assistant (P/T) Maidstone

Excellent Customer Service Skills & Food Standards

No late nights - no Sundays.

Apply to: Andrea Thorneycroft 01892 773611
andrea@candhfabrics.co.uk or in store

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- £8.25 to £10.00 per hour
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- You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own
- Must have own car and phone
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All applicants subject to Enhanced CRB Check

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Account Manager

businessforkent.co.uk

ASHFORD • £GOOD REMUNERATION

Exciting developments within the business portfolio at KOS Media has created the need to appoint a polished B2B sales professional.

Businessforkent.co.uk is the countywide business news source to provide daily and weekly breaking business stories, special reports, interviews and features through both its online news site and printed section in Kent on Saturday and Kent on Sunday

The new account manager will play a key role developing new business and maintaining existing relationships. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of account management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, creating initial contact, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.

The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with good interpersonal skills, strong relationship-building capability and have excellent verbal and written communication ability. They will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within B2B media, will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and ideally knowledge of the Kent marketplace.

KOS Media offers a good basic salary, alongside performance and target-related bonus, plus five weeks annual holiday.

If you believe you are a polished professional sales person looking for a challenging role, please submit your CV to Head of Department
christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk



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Whatever your skill, trade or talent, you could join South Kent College as a Supply Lecturer. From campuses in Ashford, Dover and Folkestone, we provide learning and training opportunities to over 10,000 local people every year. Helping us are skilled individuals like you, who lecture part-time on everything from hairdressing to catering, plumbing to child care. So, perhaps you're self-employed with some extra time to spare. Maybe you're retired, and you'd like to give something back. Whatever your background, we'd be interested to talk to you at our Recruitment Open Evening. For details visit www.skcrecruitment.co.uk



South Kent College
ASHFORD > DOVER > FOLKESTONE

**OPEN
EVENING**
5pm - 8pm
**ASHFORD on
November 17th**

ASSISTANT GOLF PROFESSIONAL and GOLF RETAILER required for busy private club with floodlit driving range. Duties include teaching, playing, together with some shop work. Experience preferred but not essential as full training can be given to the right person. Applicants should be outgoing, enthusiastic and pro-active.

Apply: **Paul Everard and Danny Maude,** Canterbury Golf Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1TW Tel: 01227 462865 Email: paul.everard@foremostgolf.com

BETHANY LODGE
Eastbridge Road, Dymchurch
requires a
REGISTERED NURSE
Friday Night Duty

To join our team in caring for 24 physically disabled adults. £146.90 per night - 8pm to 8am
Please telephone: 01303 872289
for further details and application form

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SINGLETON NURSING HOME
HOXTON CLOSE, ASHFORD TN23 5LB
RGN

We require a Registered General Nurse to cover maternity leave until August 2010. Hours of work will be Wednesday & Thursday nights from 8pm to 8am. Must be able to work unsupervised on own initiative. Experience of working with the elderly preferred.

For more information, please contact the Registered Manager, Mrs E. Obousy on 01233 666768 Or e-mail singletonhome@madasfish.com

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in law or otherwise in the content of your media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All posted and stored content supplied by the advertiser to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the media owner's printed publications via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and other intellectual property rights or moral rights for advertising programmes or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where a shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertiser will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation who inserts or places an advertisement on behalf of the advertiser.
10. Any word of insertion cannot be given where the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in transmission to boxes numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Payment by direct debit, in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of Publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership in respect of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to take legal action for recovery of debts.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be recalculated and accounted for in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be recalculated and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the cancellation. Any cancellation or cancellation of other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come-first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commitment). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services company. TV commercial cancellation or any variation in date within the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the media owner to replace the commercial with a different one from a choice of photography offered by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze), other than what will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit account debts shall be liable to be paid by the Advertiser by the 30th day of the month. The date of the invoice will be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
- b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
- c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time.
- d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
- e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
- f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commissions will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newsagents Association, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the components of the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal action arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk



Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Performing Arts Ref: P0651

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking for somebody to lead on the major new curriculum development of a Foundation Learning Tier offer in Performing Arts; working exclusively with learners at Level 1 and 2, in the fantastic new facilities at our Medway Campus. A simple commute from London, our new campus features a purpose built theatre, designed by the award winning company 'Stage Electrics', new dance and drama facilities and music, TV and radio recording studios. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Advanced Construction and Engineering Ref: P0655

Salary: £20,700 - £26,395

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in the development of construction and engineering on a range of programmes. The successful candidate will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold an HNC/HND/Foundation degree or higher in Construction and/or Engineering. Previous experience with the industry is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Access Lecturer Ref: P0440

Salary: £23,740 - £28,542 pro rata

10 hours per week

We are looking for an exceptional individual to teach at our Maidstone campus on the Access to Humanities and Teaching programme. The candidate will specialise in English Literature and Language and also act as Course Tutor to a cohort of adult students. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. This post will commence from January 4th 2010.

Lecturer in Beauty Ref: P0652

Salary: £20,700 - £26,395

The College is currently looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Closing date: 20 November 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



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OPPORTUNITIES IN GENERAL INSURANCE AND OUTBOUND SALES

Basic salary of £10,856 - £13,000 • OTE £16 - £18k+ (basic salary and uncapped commission)

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It's real people we are after...people who will listen to customers, take the time to understand their needs and build a real rapport with them. That's what we call doing things properly for our customers as we deliver great service, selling our products to people aged 50 and over.

And if you can help us achieve that, we'll do things properly for you too. You'll get excellent training and development at every stage and your hard work will be rewarded with the chance to earn additional bonuses, incentive trips, entry to our elite Top Producers' Club and unlimited earnings potential. There are also superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives.

What's more, it means a friendly working environment – as well as all the support you need to do a terrific job.

The question is, have you got what it takes? You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure.

If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing an application form, quoting reference SVS347/KOS to Mark Mear, Group Director of Sales, c/o Human Resources Department, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 27 November 2009.

saga.co.uk



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POWERED BY **KOS MEDIA**



Deal Town Council is seeking a Tourist Officer

to be based at the
Visitor Information Centre in Deal

21 hours per week to include Saturday working.

Rate of pay £7.34 per hour.

Further details and an application form are available from:

Linda Dykes, Town Clerk, Deal Town Council

Tel: 01304 361995 or e-mail

deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk

Closing date:

12 (noon) on Thursday 26th November 2009.

Interview Date:

Likely to be Thursday 3rd December 2009

Full Time Administrator

required for a training company based in
Womenswold, just outside Canterbury.
Duties to include typing, filing and general
administration.

Monday - Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm.

Please telephone Jeanette on 01227 833000

or via email jeanette@amactraining.co.uk

for further information

Closing date: 25th November 2009



Saint George's Church of England School Humanities College

Founded 1590

Meadow Road, Gravesend

Kent DA11 7LS

Tel: 01474 533082

Fax: 01474 561536

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

CURRICULUM LEADER INCLUSION (SENCO)

TLR1b (£8,975)

Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over-subscribed comprehensive school.

We are a school committed to inclusion and this is a key position to co-ordinate our inclusion work. The post offers the opportunity to have a real impact on the future life chances of our students.

We are looking for someone with:

- A thorough knowledge of a range of strategies for inclusion
- An ability to lead, inspire and motivate colleagues
- A commitment to discovering new ways to engage all students
- A commitment to raising the aspirations and achievement of students
- Good organisational and interpersonal skills
- Vision, energy and a positive approach

You will join the school at an exciting time, and will have a major contribution to the design of the new school. As part of the school's vision for continual improvement, you will develop programmes, procedures and policies to support students' needs, promote inclusion and advance the attendance and achievement of all students.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Please contact us to arrange an informal visit and/or to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 04 December 2009

Yorke Lodge Guest House Canterbury require CHAMBER PERSON

To make beds & clean
bathrooms Sunday 8am to noon
Tel: 01227 451243

Weekend Carers required!

£7.25 to £9.50 per/hr
NVQ2 desirable, car
essential
Call: Ashton Macey Ltd
on 01732 523477
(office hours)

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to receive
FREE
Alerts & Matches
to your mobile.
(Savvy you both time and money
in your search for romance).

WOMEN seeking men

MAKE IT LAST Slim female, 25, 5'10", long brown hair and blue eyes, caring and social, likes clubs, cinema, seeking a kind male, 30-45 for a relationship. Box 461558

MATCH OF THE DAY! Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5'12", a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT... Blued eye brunet, 27, 5'5", loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, my time! Looking for a honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life, with leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6'ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

FLYING WITHOUT WINGS Independent female, 32, 5'7", slim, likes dancing, days out and staying in, looking for a similar guy for companionship, maybe more. Thanet Box 461423

A FAIRYTALE ENDING! Princess P, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5'8", short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells Box 380734

FEAST YOUR EYES ON... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possibly long term relationship. Box 453039

WHAT YOU SEE... Young looking 36 year old, 5'5", brown eyes, slim, one daughter, hard working, very sincere and caring, genuine, GSOH, seeks similar male 33-43. Rochester. Box 460307

STARRY NIGHTS Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights out looking for a caring man to share the best things in life. Box 878378

LIKE DRIVING IN MY CAR Honest, caring woman, 36, 5'5", slim, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest, have four children. I enjoy dives, horse riding, Maidstone. Box 453159

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5'4", medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 430102

SEIZE THE DAY Loving female, 36, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

MEND A BROKEN HEART Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

JUST ONE QUESTION... A warm, generous, attractive and caring lady, 40, seeks soulmate who will love, respect and cherish her. What's taking you so long? Box 873458

A SOUL MATE Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453066



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Just enter the six-digit Box number, followed by a space, then PHOTO and send to 82250. Your phone must be WAP-enabled - £1.50 per photo

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NO TIES Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573

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BETWEEN US Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451904

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BE MINE Genuine guy, 54, originally from South Africa, now living in Kent. Looking for a lovely lady for friendship, maybe more. Box 461674

PLANT THE SEEDS Honest and considerate, 53, 5'9", guy, 6ft tall, considered attractive, I'm easygoing, with a GSOH. Looking for female company, to socialise with, I like DIY, gardening. Box 884003

THAT VERY SPECIAL
SOMEONE Very nervous male, 55, 5'11", medium build, brown eyes and blue eyes, gosh, WLTM lady/single mum 25-40, slim/medium build. Hastings. Box 451334

SENSE AND QUIET Single male, 45, 5'9", slim, gosh, non-smoker, homely, likes most things, seeking a nice, non-smoking, quiet lady, 45-55. Eastbourne. Box 461818

TAKE ME Blue eyed male, 45, 6ft, medium-athletic build, likes country/coastal walks, live music bars and cinema; seeks attractive romantic female 35-55 for nights out/maybe LTR. Medway. Box 866753

OFFER ME YOUR LOVE Easygoing male, 45, young looking, 6'4", tall, green eyes, short fair hair, Average build, WLTM like-minded lady, 30-48, for friendship and maybe more. Box 875795

WITTY Active, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things, seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508

MIX 'N' MATCH Young-at-heart 44yr old male, 6ft, blonde hair, blue eyes, easygoing nature, likes eating out, music, cinema etc. WLTM adventurous, witty, fit female for possible LTR. Box 452051

THE SIMPLE THINGS IN LIFE
Divorced sporty guy, 55, 5ft11, slim, modern dresser, own house, easy-going, tactile, likes to laugh, looking for a woman for love. Box 878848

GOOD COMPANIONSHIP
Passionate guy, 57, easygoing, likes going to the gym, running, likes going for fun woman for snuggles, cuddles and more. Get in touch! Box 460043

THE LIFE OF BRIAN... Hi there I'm Brian, 58, down-to-earth, no ties, looking for someone kind, friendly, looks unimportant but personally a must. Box 449709

TAKE ME NOW Genuine, honest man, 47, likes dining out, walking, looking to share the same life with a woman, 35-50. Deal, Kent. Box 604041

PERSONAL COUNTS
Genuine male, 48, with a GSOH, medium/slim build, 5ft11, brown eyes, great sense of humour. I don't smoke or drink and I'm looking for a big bubbly woman. Box 452560

MAKE IT A LOVELY DAY Hi, I'm Carl, 40, GSOH, 6ft, light green eyes, brown hair, looking for a fun, bubbly woman to share my life. Box 461629

A SIMPLE PLAN Sociable male, 48 seeking a fun, attractive woman. Sittingbourne area, I like theatre, cinema films, cosy nights in, football. Box 878070

YOUNG AT HEART Sincere genuine man, 47, looks younger, 5ft6, cropped hair, blue eyes, single, likes cycling nights in/out, sees younger female for fun friendship. It's Margate. Box 867078

OUT THERE 51yr old chap, I run my own business and enjoys meals in/out, seeing shows, walks and cuddles, WLTM lovely lady to spend time with. Kent. Box 461822

FANCY A DRINK? I love the beach, drinks up, eating out, dining in. I'm an easygoing gent, 51, slim/medium build, brown hair/eyes. Kent area. Box 451822

MADE A DATE Fun male 58" brown eyes, whilst hair, looking for a tall guy for fun. Box 439132

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING
MORE Young looking 50 yr old, fairly shy, non-smoker, loves travel, walking and meals out... hoping to meet a nice guy for relationship. Box 452631

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Women seeking men

A LITTLE AFFECTION Intelligent, cheeky, emotional female, 44, WLTM similar woman, 35-65, for walks, museum/art trips, wine/dining, theatre, good conversation & friendship first, maybe more. Kent. Box 884070

TABLE FOR 2? 29 Homely type woman, 44, looking for a similar female, 35-45, salt & pepper hair, I'm honest and trust worthy and looking for the same. Hastings. Box 455737

WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU Kent gent, 43, I'm divorced (2 kids), looking for a child friendly woman. I'm patient, loyal, genuine and honest. I enjoy music, films, outdoors. Box 451622

THE FOOD OF LOVE? Modest male, 42, 5ft2, dark hair, stocky, a chef and loving dad, loves cinema, dining out and cosy nights, seeks someone special and fun-loving. Box 450507

SENTIMENTAL ROMANTIC Hi I'm Kevin, 43, kind and down-to-earth, 5ft10, short hair, piercings, young looking, smart, love family and socialising, seeking lady for quiet nights in. Box 452102

TREAT YOU RIGHT Fit and attractive man, 52, 5ft7, slim and keeps fit, likes art, reading, poetry, cycling, tennis; WLTM female who's genuine to share this and more. Box 452588

MAKING A DATE Fun male 58" brown eyes, whilst hair, looking for a tall easy-going lady, likes going out, cinema or a meal, and bit of fun. Tunbridge Wells. Box 460283

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING
MORE Young looking 50 yr old, fairly shy, non-smoker, loves travel, walking and meals out... hoping to meet a nice guy for relationship. Box 452631

Men seeking women

STANDING ON OUR OWN FEET Hi there, 43 year old outgoing male, 6ft, with brown hair/blue eyes, sincere, caring, generous & thoughtful. OHAC, seeking care and concern for female for loving relationship... Kent. Box 884070

LIKE THE SOUND OF ME? Bubbly confident male, 44, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, medium build, likes holidays abroad, theatre, cooking, music, shopping, beach walks! Seeks similar for love... Ashford. Box 461813

ATTRACTIVE, BUBBLY LADY 52yrs, 5ft6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly relationship. Box 441413

ALL NIGHT LONG I'm 44, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, loves the cinema and beach walks, music, theatre, cooking, music, eating out, sex! Tunbridge Wells. Box 449928

SILVER SERVICE! Caring, understanding, not bad-looking, romantic male, 42, grey/silver hair, stocky, enjoys cooking, quiet nights in, seeks female, for romance, possibly more. Box 157789



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IN FORM: Ashford ladies maintained their unbeaten record

Ladies sweep up Remnants to stay unbeaten

HOCKEY

HAYLEY Richards' Ashford women's 1st XI kept the pressure on Kent Premier League leaders Sevenoaks by maintaining their unbeaten start to the season.

The departure of coach Daren Cass failed to upset the form of Richards' side, as they went on to secure a comfortable 3-0 win against basement side Remnants.

Under the guidance of caretaker coaches Chris Smith and Rob Playford, Ashford are just two points behind the league leaders Sevenoaks. This Saturday Ashford face Bexleyheath & Belvedere.

The 2nd XI also enjoyed a successful

weekend with a 2-1 win against Burnt Ash. Di Tipping and Linda Charlton were the scorers for Ashford. The 3rd XI completed an unbeaten weekend for Ashford ladies with a hard fought 0-0 draw against Old Bordenians.

The men's 1st XI were unable to build on their 3-1 win against Milton Keynes last week, as they were beaten by the same score at fifth-placed Winchester. With Gore Court and Eastbourne both

losing, Ashford remain in seventh place in the division and are just six points adrift of the leaders.

This Saturday Chris Smith's side face their toughest challenge of the season so far when they host the league leaders Eastbourne.

The Men's 2nd XI moved closer to the top of Kent/Sussex two with a narrow 3-2 win against Burnt Ash. The 3rd XI also playing Burnt Ash were not so fortunate and were comfortably beaten 5-2. Louis Yssennagger scored both goals for Ashford.



WAITING: Leon Camier is hoping he has done enough to earn a contract at Aprilia next season

Camier plays waiting game with Aprilia

SUPERBIKES

LEON Camier is still facing an agonising wait to see if he will join the Aprilia World Superbike team for an assault on the World Superbike Championship next year.

The 2009 British Superbike Champion from Ashford joined the Italian team for the final two rounds of the World Superbike Championship this season and the 23-year-old showed his potential by clinching two top ten finishes at the final meeting at Portugal last month.

Yet despite impressing the team during two races and a two-day test session in Portugal earlier this month, Camier has still not secured a ride for the 2010 season.

Camier's manager Andy Walker told MCN: "We're still waiting on a definite decision. It's looking positive but until they actually contact us and say the deal is done, we don't know for sure."

However, one of Camier's rivals for the seat at Aprilia, former team mate and Kent rider Shane Byrne has ruled himself out of contention by signing a deal with Althea Ducati for 2010.



DEFEAT: Ashford's inexperienced side threw away a lead to slip to seventh in Kent 1, having squandered a good start against Guys Hospital on Saturday

Experience best medicine for Ashford after Guy's loss

FOOTBALL

■ BY YOURASHFORD REPORTER

Ashford 5 Guy's Hospital 22

ASHFORD fell to their third consecutive defeat at the hands of Guy's Hospital in difficult playing conditions at Kinney's Field.

Despite challenging wet and windy conditions, Ashford started the game brightly and opened the scoring early on with a try from cap-

tain Pete Walsh. The host continued to attack, but they were caught out towards the end of the half by a swift attacking move from Guy's Hospital. The visitors levelled the score with a try, but missed the conversion.

Ashford won a penalty in the dying minutes of the half but instead of kicking for goal they decided to run the ball, which proved to be the wrong decision, as Guy's Hospital forced a turnover.

As the conditions worsened, the more experienced Guy's Hospital took control of the game and scored two quick-fire tries to establish a healthy lead. Ashford tried to get back in the game, but the visitors' defence proved difficult to exploit and the hosts ended the game empty handed.

Head coach Dai Fussell was disappointed by the result and feels his players will learn from their poor decision making at penalties.

Ashford are not in action this weekend, which will give the young side a chance to regroup.

Fussell said: "The conditions were bad but that is not an excuse for the defeat. At the end of the day we made more mistakes than they did and were punished. We have a very young squad and our decision making at time was a bit naïve, which the players will learn from when they play more games."

"I think the break this week will do us the world of good, as it will give us a chance to work at few things training."

Ashford are back in action on November 28 when they host Dartfordians in Kent 1.



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Lovell won't be looking to transfers to fill gaps

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

ASHFORD Town boss Steve Lovell admitted he is reluctant to bring in fresh faces to help his injury hit side move up the Ryman South table.

Town, who are hovering above the Ryman South relegation zone, have been struck down by a number of injuries in recent weeks, with nine first team players on the sidelines. Lovell has been forced to call upon youth and fringe players to fill the gaps, but revealed he is not prepared to go into the transfer market.

Ashford were due to play Chipstead on Saturday, but the wet weather forced the game to be abandoned.

He said: "The injuries have not helped us in the last few games, but players picking up injuries is a part of the game and we have just got to get on with it. I think once we get some of them back we will start to move forward."

"I could try to bring in players but it is very difficult to find the right players and to use fresh faces for one or two games probably wouldn't help the side. However, if the injury list gets even bigger then I might be forced to have a look for players."

"It's a strange situation at the moment obviously we want to play games, but having



RULED OUT: Striker Joe Fuller is one of nine Ashford Town players recovering from injury

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

matches cancelled like the Chipstead game postponed could aid players recovery."

One positive for Lovell is the news Ebbsfleet United defender Steven Springett has agreed to extend his loan stay for another month. The defender has settled in well to the Town line-up and Lovell has been impressed by the 19-year-old. Forward Jamie Forshaw, who was also on-loan from Ebbsfleet United, has returned to the Blue Square Premier League club.

He said: "It's great he (Springett) has decided to stay with us. We have all been impressed

by the way he has slotted into the side and he is happy here playing regular football. Unfortunately it didn't work out for Jamie. He was ill during his time here, which didn't help him."

This Saturday Town return to Ryman South action with a trip to Burgess Hill Town and Lovell is hoping a few of his first team regulars will return to help his side.

He said: "Burgess Hill is a difficult place to go. I think every time I have taken a side I have secured a draw. They are a tricky side and I am expecting a hard fought game."

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

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| 16 Walton Casuals | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | -5 | 16 |
| 17 Leatherhead | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | +1 | 15 |
| 18 Chipstead | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | -13 | 10 |
| 19 Horsham YMCA | 12 | 2 | 4 | 6 | -14 | 10 |
| 20 Ashford Town | 14 | 2 | 4 | 8 | -24 | 10 |
| 21 Eastbourne Town | 13 | 1 | 5 | 7 | -10 | 8 |
| 22 Whitstable Town | 14 | 2 | 1 | 11 | -26 | 7 |

FIXTURES (Saturday): Burgess Hill Town v **Ashford Town**

GOLF



Pictures: ADY KERRY

BACK TO SCHOOL: Benn Barham has to come through qualifying school to earn his 2010 European Tour card

Barham ready to swing into action after losing card

BENN Barham suffered a nightmare finish to his season on Friday when he lost his guaranteed place on the European Tour for next season.

The 33-year-old, from Ashford, went into the JBWere Masters in Melbourne, Australia, needing a top-five finish to catapult him up the rankings at the end of a disappointing season.

While Tiger Woods drew huge galleries at the Kingston Heath Golf Club, Barham began steadily. A level par round of 72 kept him firmly in contention on day one, but his hopes fell apart early on in round two.

Dropping six shots in his opening nine holes on Friday, he plummeted down the leaderboard and never recovered, carding a six-over-par 78 to miss the cut.

It meant Barham was unable to finish in the top-115 for the season, losing his card for next year. His last chance of getting on tour in 2010 is a return to the notoriously difficult Qualifying School, but speaking ahead of last week's tournament, the Chart Hills pro was relaxed about the prospect.

He said: "The situation is not a matter of life and death and if anything, it has given me a kick to perform better next year. I have been to Qualifying School four times before and if I have to do that I don't think it will be a problem. My game has improved so much from the last time I was there."

Barham will go into the final stage of qualifying, held over six rounds at the PGA Golf de Catalunya in Spain. Beginning on November 28, the top 30 players receive a card to the 2010 European Tour season.

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DREAMS: Bromley Green (pictured) are through to the next round of the Kent Sunday Premier Cup



Gills boss Mark Stimson looks ahead to a critical run of league fixtures

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